

Two SLA militiamen killed in attack

MARIYOUN (AFP) — Hizbollah guerrillas Tuesday killed two Israeli-backed militiamen in a roadside bomb attack in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon, the South Lebanon Army (SLA) said. The attack on a patrol occurred in the centre of Israel's self-declared "security zone" along the Israeli-Lebanese border as it travelled along a road to Barasheet. The deaths were also confirmed by Israeli military officials. A Hizbollah spokesman contacted in Beirut by AFP claimed the attack "on an enemy patrol of that was travelling along the road to Barasheet" which "killed and wounded the occupants of an armoured vehicle." Israeli and SLA forces swung into action after the attack firing mortars at the area of Maybin, a stronghold of Hizbollah in the west of the Bekaa Valley. An Israeli army spokesman also confirmed that fighter planes had fired on "terrorist bases" in southern Lebanon from which anti-Israeli attacks had been launched. He said the targets had been destroyed and the planes had returned safely to their bases in Israel.

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Musa expected here on Saturday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, who delayed a scheduled Monday visit to Amman because his Jordanian counterpart Abdul Karim Kabariti was ill, will now make the visit on Saturday, official sources said. The main focus of the visit will be the situation in the region following the defection to Jordan of Iraqi Minister of Industry Hussein Kamel Hassan and Jordanian-Egyptian relations. Mr. Musa said Tuesday he wanted a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to His Majesty King Hussein "on the peace process and ... current developments in the Arab World." Mr. Musa met last week with Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for the Middle East, who Tuesday ended a tour of the region to discuss the situation in Iraq after the defection. Mr. Mubarak cast doubt on reports by one of the defectors that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was planning to invade Kuwait or Saudi Arabia. "From my military experience, I don't think it is true what's been said that Saddam Hussein was going to repeat the invasion.... even if there was a (military) buildup," Mr. Mubarak said.

Pelletreau briefs King on talks with regional leaders

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Senior U.S. State Department official Robert Pelletreau on Tuesday briefed His Majesty King Hussein on the outcome of talks he held with other Middle Eastern leaders, mainly King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait, on the situation in the region in the wake of the defection of a senior Iraqi official to Jordan.

Accelerated by Jordan's decision to grant asylum to Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, Iraq's minister of industry and son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein, who defected to the Kingdom on Aug. 8.

However, Jordan has reaffirmed that reconciliation with the Gulf states would not come at the expense of the strong relationship between Amman and Baghdad despite obvious American efforts to deepen the differences caused by the Jordanian decision to grant refuge to Gen. Hassan, who on Aug. 12 vowed to overthrow President Saddam.

It was Mr. Pelletreau's second visit to Jordan in one week following the defection. Accompanied by Mark Parris, a special envoy of President Bill Clinton, he flew to Jordan last Thursday and held talks with the King and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker before leaving for Egypt on Friday.

Also expected to have been discussed by the King and Mr. Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs, were American efforts to bring closer the views of Jordan and the Gulf states.

Ties between Jordan and Gulf states were strained because of what the Gulf states perceived as Jordan's support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis triggered by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. However, concerted efforts since then have improved the relations, and the reconciliation process was obviously

before returning to Amman late Monday. He left for home late Tuesday.

An American embassy spokesman said "the objective (of Mr. Pelletreau's visit) was to review (with the King) the recent developments in the region and (to hold) consultations on the talks he held with other regional leaders."

U.S.: No sign of Iraqi invasion plans

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has detected no evidence that Iraq is preparing to invade Jordan or Kuwait, but is moving men and equipment to the region as a precaution to deter any such move, Defense Secretary William Perry said on Tuesday.

Ekeus meets Hussein Kamel, but said to receive no secrets

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Senior U.N. arms inspector Rolf Ekeus on Tuesday met with Hussein Kamel Hassan, former head of Iraq's military industrialisation programme who defected to Jordan this month, but failed to extract any Iraqi secrets from the defector, according to a source.

Mr. Ekeus, a Swedish diplomat who heads the U.S. Special Commission on eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under U.N. terms, met with Lieutenant-General Hassan, a son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein, at an undisclosed site for four hours and could meet him again, informed sources said.

These have been some unusual deployments of Iraqi military forces," he told reporters during a picture-taking session in this Pentagon office. But, he added, the movements were "nothing that leads us to believe that any invasion is under way or planned."

Mr. Ekeus had delayed his departure from Jordan until Wednesday, said the sources.

Major Izzeddine Hassan, a cousin of Gen. Hassan, who also defected on Aug. 8, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that the U.N. official did not get any Iraqi military secrets in Tuesday's meeting.

Gen. Hassan himself has been quoted as saying that he did not think he had any secrets to reveal to Mr. Ekeus after the Iraqi government itself provided all the details during a three-day visit the U.N. official paid to Baghdad last week and early this

The Pentagon said last week that it was sending ships with tanks and arms for as many as 22,000 marines and army troops closer to the Gulf region. It also moved more warships to the area and advanced a scheduled training exercise in Kuwait in response to what the Pentagon said was a five-week-old pattern of unusual troop movements.

Mr. Perry did not make clear whether the Iraqi movements at issue were continuing. "It is a matter that bears careful watching, and

The source, however, confirmed that Mr. Ekeus had deferred his departure from Amman. A scheduled press conference failed to materialise on Tuesday, and expectations are that the U.N. official would meet journalists before he leaves Jordan on Wednesday.

The main objective of the Ekeus mission to Jordan is to cross-check information he has already received from the Iraqi government.

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An Israeli soldier checks a bus carrying Palestinian passengers at the Aram checkpoint at the northern entrance to Jerusalem on Tuesday after Israel sealed off the occupied West Bank, excluding Jerusalem, after a bomb explosion in Jerusalem on Monday (AFP photo)

Israel, PLO resume talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Tuesday resumed talks on a deal expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank after pausing for a day because of a suicide bomb attack on a bus in Jerusalem, PLO negotiators said.

Monday's attack was the latest in a series of bombings that has killed 77 Israelis and tourists since the 1993 Israel-PLO framework peace accord.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin suspended talks with the PLO on expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank until after the funerals of the victims were held.

Autonomy began in most of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho in May 1994. Final peace talks are set to begin no later than mid-1996.

Negotiators confirmed Israeli and Palestinian working groups had resumed negotiations at the Israeli Red Sea resort of Eilat. "We are going to try to achieve as much success as possible during this round. We will work in a very intensified manner," chief Palestinian negotiator Ahmad Qureia said. A bomb from the militant Hamas group, which opposes the peace process, was killed along with four other people in Monday's

light of the bombings. Mr. Weizman said he preferred going straight to the permanent peace settlement, skipping over interim self-rule in the West Bank, which has been delayed for more than a year.

Access to scarce water resources and the number of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel to be freed under a peace deal are also problems. Hamas's military wing said

in a statement it was behind Monday's bombing. It vowed more attacks "from now to the next Israeli elections" to derail the peace process. The Israeli army sealed off the West Bank and the Gaza Strip until Wednesday following the explosion. The bombing have undermined Israeli public support for the peace deal and for Mr. Rabin. Elections are set for November next year. Israeli Tourism Minister Uzi Baram told Israel's army radio the effect of militant attacks, especially if one occurred near elections, could not be ignored. "It's possible the government would be replaced. Anyone ... who says terror does not hurt the government and its value in the eyes of the public is mistaken," Mr.

Jordan gets \$33m IMF credit

AMMAN (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has given Amman a \$33 million extended credit facility for having attained its targets in an economic reform plan, Finance Minister Basel Jaraneh said on Tuesday.

U.S. rebuilds peace team; Croatians 'battle ready'

SARAJEVO (R) — Croatian troops were "battle ready" around the Adriatic port of Dubrovnik on Tuesday and could strike Serb gunners perched in the hills above at any time, U.N. officials said.

Four floors of a five-storey building collapsed after it appeared to have been hit by a large rocket, a Reuters journalist at the scene said. At least one person was buried in the rubble.

Mr. Perry, Mr. Lake and Mr. Christopher pressed ahead on Monday, meeting for talks just after a ceremony to honour the diplomats who died when their armoured car veered off a mountain road near the Bosnian capital.

Mr. Jaraneh told Reuters Jordan "had implemented all the requirements of the economic readjustment programme until June 30, 1995." The credit is part of a \$268 million facility granted by the IMF over three years. The facility includes an extra \$887 million of access to IMF resources given to states that perform exceptionally well.

Defence Secretary William Perry, National Security Adviser Anthony Lake and Secretary of State Warren Christopher want the team, which lost three members in a crash near Sarajevo at the weekend, back in Europe next week to keep up momentum. Time appears to be of the

essence, with shooting continuing at key points in the conflict. Eyewitnesses said a huge blast rocked the western suburbs of Sarajevo, destroying an industrial building and setting an apartment block on fire.

The three officials were due on Tuesday to meet the mediating team leaders.

Jordan is weighing its options vis-a-vis Iraq

Questions galore, but answers need time

By Nermeen Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

THE DILEMMA that has faced Jordan ever since the defection of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, namely on whether to start playing an active role in the effort to further isolate Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, seems to have found an answer — for now. Jordan will not take active measures to topple the Iraqi regime but nor will it foreclose options in dealing with the fast-changing situation in Iraq and the region generally.

The reaction of the government, the Lower House of Parliament and the press in general has been that the defection should not be used to put further pressure

on the Iraqi regime," says Senator Jawad Anani, the former minister of information. "But there are other questions that have to be answered before we foreclose all other options open to us," the member of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) argues.

Such questions, as posed by Dr. Anani and other political figures, include whether Jordan should be involved in determining the future of Iraq, which is closely connected to that of Jordan, when there is a real opportunity to do so as the case must be now, and whether it might be too harmful and dangerous for Jordan's vital interests to shy away from playing a regional role when everybody else is vying for it.

convening of the Madrid conference, make up for the loss if it will not take an active part in other regional theatres?

"Jordan not only paid a heavy political price for its decision to stay neutral in the Gulf war," another former minister says. "But its attempts to rebuild itself economically have not led to prosperity even after signing the peace treaty"

qi groups, with Israel and the West which can all be used to serve Jordan's goals of achieving comprehensive peace and stability in the region and achieving economic prosperity for Jordan," a Jordanian parliamentarian says.

cooperation and war sharing. "On at least three of these four counts there is a common Iraqi-Israeli interest in which Jordan can play an important role," says a former Jordanian negotiator in peace talks with Israel.

There are of course more questions being posed by other politicians and analysts. Jordan, they point out, nearly lost its role as a regional player after taking a neutral position during the Gulf crisis and war. Should the Kingdom expect to regain that role by doing nothing? On the other hand, should not Jordan, which gave up another important card in regional politics by not speaking for the Palestinians before the

with Israel, he adds. "A decision by Jordan therefore to participate in international attempts to topple the Iraqi regime, parallel to already successful reconciliation efforts with the Gulf states led by Saudi Arabia, may just be what Jordan needs at the present."

His Majesty personally has a wealth of good relations with the different Ira-

As Mr. Clinton prepares to enter the race for presidential elections next year, reports from Washington have already hinted that His Majesty's decision to grant asylum to the Iraqi defectors will strengthen the president's hand in establishing his forcefulness in foreign policy.

(Continued on page 7)

Turkish women to stress insult means injury in Beijing

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish experts will take to the U.N. Conference on Women a new project that says insult amounts to injury — a concept that is hard to establish when physically battered women here are just learning to complain.

Funded by the European Commission, the \$25,000 project shows to groups of women in low-income, squatter areas around the capital video-taped vignettes on physical and verbal violence.

At the end, over tea and cakes many of the women openly admit that they too had been beaten, sexually abused or verbally humiliated by a husband, brother or father.

"He never told me I was ugly, but he did shout at me in front of our friends," said a 55-year-old woman of her husband after a recent show in a home in the Altindag quarter.

She was commenting on one of the scenes showing a man "disgusted" with his wife's looks. In others, a husband insults his wife's cooking skills and her intelligence in public.

"But our men cannot change and we should not expect it," objected another woman.

"He is the breadwinner. If he wants warm soup, or quick service we should deliver," she said.

However, she and the rest bitterly responded during scenes of physical violence. They drew from their own experiences to imagine the rest of a vignette that tapered off just as a husband was about to hit his wife.

"Women were not aware that verbal abuse was really abuse," said Gulseren Washington, educational psychologist who together with the private Women's Solidarity Foundation is carrying out the project.

"Most believe oral abuse is their 'destiny' and they must accept it."

"We are trying to tell them not to wait until the point of physical abuse."

The four-year-old foundation takes in battered women, housing them and their children in a shelter for about three months while helping them develop income-earning skills.

In June, the awareness-raising campaign was launched, introducing an emphasis on verbal abuse.

"Even though we can't take to verbal abuse victims, we counsel them on how to handle it," Ms. Washington said.

If it works, the project will travel to other parts of the country.

So far, unlike physically abused women, the few who sought help against verbal abuse came from educated, higher-income backgrounds, or were working women.

"I met an engineer whose husband, an architect insulted her everyday, all the time," said Sevinç Unal, a foundation member who also works at a government centre for battered women.

"She said she couldn't leave him because it would look bad in her circle, even though she had her own income and her own flat."

A 1990 census put the average literacy rate among women at 69 per cent, significantly lower than the men's 90 per cent. The difference gets sharper after high school, and in rural areas where there are five times more illiterate women than men.

Even physically battered women were reluctant to change their lives, lacking skills and being fully dependent on their husbands for their survival.

"Those who come to the foundation are women who have reached the limit of suffering, of hearing physical abuse," said Ms. Washington.

Oya Fisek, a co-founder of the Women's Solidarity Foundation, agreed.

"Many women don't think that one or two slaps across the face is equal to violence," she said.

"The worst I ever saw was a woman who came to us bleeding, with her ear in her hand — her husband had cut it off."

Turkey is sending to Beijing 35 officials from its state ministry for women's services. Scores more are going from non-governmental organisations.



FUNERAL: An Israeli policeman mourns at the funeral Tuesday of chief superintendent Noam Eisenman, 35, who was killed in a bomb explosion in Jerusalem on Monday. Five people, including a possible suicide bomber, were killed in the blast (see page one) (AFP photo)

PNA jails 3 'bombers'; Arafat talks tough

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Three men who allegedly planned a bomb attack on the Israeli army were jailed for several years overnight Monday by the Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) state security court.

The three were preparing to bomb an Israeli military patrol, Palestinian Attorney-General Khaled Al Kidra told AFP.

"They were undergoing training in explosives," he said.

Rabin Zeno was sentenced to five years, Mohammad Abu Hamad and Anis Abu Jazar to three and a half years each.

Aged from 20 to 22 all three lived in the town of Rafah, close to the border with Egypt. They were arrested two weeks ago, police said.

They were members of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which opposes the PLO's autonomy agreements, but acted alone, Mr. Kidra said.

It was the first session of the controversial security court since May.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat set up the court in March under pressure from Israel to crack down on militants fighting against occupation and the autonomy accords.

But human rights groups have strongly condemned the summary trials which take place at night in camera and with little respect for international judicial norms.

Mr. Arafat has vowed to cut off the bands of any Palestinian militants taking orders from abroad, after a suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem killed six and wounded 100.

"Each time we are getting near to an accord on prisoners or we find ourselves only two steps from Al Quds, something happens and I have proof that it is not just by chance, in fact it is just the opposite," Mr. Arafat said.

He was addressing an audience commemorating the burning of the Al Aqsa mosque on Aug. 21, 1969.

"The higher interest (for the Palestinians) lies not in the orders dictated from abroad to carry out an operation and receive in return money," he said.

"I will cut off the band of anyone receiving orders from abroad whether that be Iran or any other country."

"I am not the one stopping the tanks from arriving in Jerusalem or Nablus" in the occupied West Bank, he said, referring to countries opposed to the peace process such as Iran and who have urged force to retake the occupied territories.

He also said it made no difference whether Monday's suicide bomber was a man or a woman, saying "a Muslim doesn't attack innocent civilians."

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, which is violently opposed to the PLO's autonomy accords with Israel, claimed Monday's attack on a peace bus in a Jewish quarter of Jerusalem in an anonymous call to Israel radio.

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U.S. denounces bomb attack in Jerusalem

WASHINGTON — In the wake of terrorist bombing in Jerusalem, the United States pledged to stand with the people of Israel in working toward a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The explosion, apparently triggered by a suicide bomber, ripped through two buses, killing at least five persons, including an American tourist, and injuring more than 100 others, many of them seriously.

Both President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher condemned the act of terrorism and expressed their condolences to the families of those who were killed or injured.

"The president, in the name of the American people, joins with the people of Israel in renewing our determination to work together in the cause of peace," White House Press Secretary Michael McCurry said in a written statement issued in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

"These enemies of peace will not succeed."

He said the United States stands with Israel and all those who work for peace and a safer future for the people of the region.

"Those who carried out this attack had one purpose: to kill Israelis and to destroy the peace process," Mr. Christopher said in a statement issued by deputy spokesman David Johnson.

"We must not allow these extremists to succeed," Mr. Christopher declared. "We will not submit to their terror and intimidation; and we will not permit them to kill the chances for peace through negotiations."

While Israel suspended its ongoing negotiations with the Palestinian Authority in the wake of the terrorist bombing, Mr. Johnson told reporters that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assured Christians in a telephone conversation that "the Israeli government plans to move forward after a short suspension."

The secretary called Rabin to convey his condolences.

In his written statement, Mr. Christopher noted that the people of Israel "have chosen not to surrender to the forces of extremism and terror and to pursue peace."

He acknowledged the choice was not an easy one, but he said "it offers a real chance to achieve a peace with the kind of security that Israelis have been denied for so long."

Asked about right-wing demonstrations in a number of Israeli cities and towns which have demanded that the peace process be abandoned, the deputy spokesman replied: "I would not discount the anger of those who would like to derail this process and to incite more violence in the region."

However, he continued, "based on the evidence that we have, based on the cooperation that the Israeli security authorities have been able to have with the Palestinian Authority and the bombings that have been stopped, the

work that's been done in that area, we believe that real progress has been made under this framework."

When a reporter claimed that more Israelis had been killed in bombings since the peace process began than before it, Johnson asserted that "the death toll signifies that those who are against the peace process are willing to go to great lengths in order to try to derail it."

"We believe the peace process has the best hope for making Israel secure," the deputy spokesman said. "We're working with the parties. We believe that they are making progress on the issues that confront them," he said.

Following is the text of Mr. Christopher's statement:

"I want to offer my deepest sympathies, and those of the American people, to all the families of those killed and injured in this morning's terrorist attack in Jerusalem. I reaffirm to the people of Israel that the United States stands with them in the face of this outrage."

"Those who carried out this attack had one purpose: to kill Israelis and to destroy the peace process. We must not allow these extremists to succeed; we will not submit to their terror and intimidation; and we will not permit them to kill the chances for peace through negotiations."

"Throughout its history, the people of Israel have expressed extraordinary courage in the face of terror. They have chosen not to surrender to the forces of extremism and terror and to pursue peace. Today they demonstrate that courage again by committing themselves to pursue peace with their Palestinian neighbours. This choice is not an easy one. But it offers a real chance to achieve a peace with the kind of security that Israelis have been denied for so long. Fortified by the courage and determination already shown by those committed to peace, we will do everything we can to help the parties reach their goal of a lasting, comprehensive peace with security for all."

Following is the White House statement:

"President Clinton condemns the tragic act of terrorism that took place in Jerusalem this morning. The attack by a suicide bomber against a public bus has taken the lives of several innocent civilians, and has wounded many, including two Americans."

"The president expressed his deep sadness at the loss of life and sends his heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims of today's bombing. The President, in the name of the American people, joins with the people of Israel in renewing our determination to work together in the cause of peace. These enemies of peace will not succeed. The United States stands with Israel and all those who work for peace and a safer future for the people of the region."

Sudan to expand external relations

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan has drawn up plans to expand its external relations to boost economic investment and present its Islamic model to the world, the press reported on Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Ali Osman Mohammed Taha was quoted by the daily Al Sudan Al Hadith as saying his ministry "seeks to employ Sudan's external relations for economic promotion with a view to attracting foreign investments in addition to introducing to the world the Sudan's cultural (Islamic) model."

The foreign minister, who was speaking Monday at a meeting chaired by the newly appointed minister of cabinet affairs, retired Brigadier Salahuddin Karar, said the plan was aimed at expanding Sudan's relations with the Arab and African nations and at "normalising relations with America and Europe for achievement of common interests."

He said branch departments had been formed within the ministry to be in charge of human rights, peace, the Islamic world, minorities, women and environmental issues.

Relief supplies

Two towns in civil war-torn southern Sudan will receive four months worth of relief supplies in the next few days, Al Sudan Al Hadith said in a separate report.

Al Sudan Al Hadith said the aid would be airdropped on Pochala in Jonglei state and Torit in eastern Equatoria state from the Kenyan town of Lokichokio.

The paper also said 3,307 tonnes of relief aid was due to move in the next few days

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TIMES	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
14:00	Prhlim Child
14:30	Super Chumps
15:00	Tomorrow's World
16:30	Amazing Stories
16:00	Families
17:00	Children's Programme — Rahan
17:30	Telefilm "Les Cinq Derniers Minutes"
19:00	News in French
19:15	Ushuaia
19:30	News Headlines
19:35	An End to Silence
20:00	Anything for a Laugh
20:30	The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15	Heart of Healing
22:00	News in English
22:25	Prism
22:45	Drama — Blue Skies
23:30	Murder in Texas
PRAYER TIMES	
04:37	Fajr
10:00	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:38	Dhuhr
16:16	'Asr
19:17	Maghreh
20:39	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terresanta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 622541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Antioch International Church Tel. 652526	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824324	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Fine weather conditions will prevail with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds westerly moderate in active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas choppy.	
Min./Max. temp. 17/28	
Aqaba 24 / 36	
Desert 15 / 31	

JORDAN VALLEY	
22 / 36	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28 Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent. Aqaba 49 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Fakher Belbeisi	663412
Dr. Mazen Shawhat	830435
Dr. Abdul Rahim Mustafa	744685
Dr. Basam Karadshch	759201
Firas pharmacy	661912
Pardons pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nurokhab pharmacy	628672
Al Salam pharmacy	630731
Yusuf pharmacy	649495
Shmiciant pharmacy	637691
Natruj pharmacy	623672
Najih pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Hila	279773
Al Ouds pharmacy	1—
ZARQA:	
Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih	946130
Khalifeh pharmacy	954517
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre 637111	
Civil Defence Department 661111	
Rescue 192 621111, 637777	
Fire Brigade 617111	
Blind Bank 775121	
Highway Police 843401	
Traffic Police 696391	
Public Security Department 630321	
Hotel Complaints 605841	
Price Complaints 661176	
Water and Sewage 897467	
Amman Municipality 787111	
Complaints 787111	
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121	
Overseas Calls 811230	
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623111	
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661111	
Jordan Television 773111	
Radio Jordan 774111	
Water Authority 680111	
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615	
Electric Power Company 636341	
RJ Flight Information 18-53200	
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200	
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussain Medical Centre 813813/2	
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn 64281/6	
Jabel Amman Maternity 642362	
Mathas, J. Amman 636140	
Palestine, Shmiciant 6641714	
Shmiciant Hospital 669131	
Al-Musabir Hospital 845843	
The Islamic, Abdali 66412757	
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/983323	
Zarqa National Hospital 09/983323	
Ibn Sina Hospital 019/980561	
Al-Hakim Modern Hospital 09/986732	
BRIDJ:	
Princess Basma Hospital 02/275555	
Greek Catholic Hospital 02/275555	
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital 02/275555	
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital 03/314111	
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by	

Afghanistan, Iran set up narcotics control body

KABUL (R) — Afghanistan and Iran have agreed to set up a joint commission to examine ways of controlling the flow of narcotics through the region, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alaaddin Brujerdi said on Monday.

He told a news conference after two-day visit to the Afghan capital that the two governments had agreed the commission would meet as soon as possible.

"We want poppy-growing areas in Afghanistan to be converted to useful alternative crops and we want to crack down on the flow of narcotics across our border," he said.

The Afghan government agreed to help us in this regard and they will send a delegation to Tehran soon."

According to a United Nations Drug Control Programme survey, Afghanistan produces more opium than any other country in the world, much of it grown in remote tribal regions close to the Iranian border.

Afghan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Najibullah Lefraie said the joint commission would examine a number of options for tackling the problem, but the two governments had not discussed concrete proposals.

Besides his talks with Mr. Lefraie, Mr. Brujerdi also met embattled Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his main military commander, Ahmad Shah Masood.

Apart from drugs, the two sides also discussed ways to resolve Afghanistan's long civil war, Mr. Brujerdi said.

"We are very concerned about the continuing tensions inside Afghanistan, and we expressed our hope for an early settlement here," he said.

The conflict in Afghanistan has shifted to the northern-central provinces of Samangan and Jowzjan where rival Shiite Muslim factions are battling for control.

Mr. Brujerdi said he was prepared to send a delegation to the northern opposition-controlled city of Mazar-e Sharif if it would help ease the situation.

But Mr. Afraie declined the offer, saying: "These are domestic problems that we prefer to solve ourselves."

Mr. Brujerdi said his schedule had included a stop in the eastern town of Jalalabad to meet former prime minister and opposition Hezbe-Islami faction leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. But he said the trip was cancelled when he was told Mr. Hekmatyar was not available.

In January, Mr. Masood accused Iran of giving financial support to the mainly Shiite opposition Hezbe-Wahdat Party, which was then fighting for control of Kabul and was later ousted from there.

But in a remark suggesting that Kabul had put the issue behind, Mr. Lefraie said he believed the Iranian government was pursuing "a realistic policy towards Afghanistan" and that relations between the two sides were warm.

3 more Algerians to run for president

PARIS (Agencies) — Three Algerian politicians, including a woman, have announced their intention to stand in the country's controversial presidential elections scheduled for November, the Algerian official news agency APS reported.

APS said on Monday night that Mahdjoubi Chelbia, a member of the government-appointed Transitional National Council (CNT), became the first woman to say she will stand for the presidency.

Mr. Chelbia will run on behalf of the Movement for the Youth and Democracy (MJD) which is led by Hamidou Redouane, a former bodyguard of Algeria's first President Ahmed Ben Bella who was ousted by the military in a bloodless coup in 1965.

Mohammad Saadi, leader of the eastern town of Constantine-based Boonediennist Islamic National Front, and Abdel Kader Belhail, chief of the Algerian National Rally, also announced their candidacy.

It was not yet clear how they would manage to overcome the first hurdle by drawing 75,000 supporters' signatures to enable them to run for the presidency as the three were from very small groups.

Nourredine Boukrouh, a moderate Islamist intellectual and former journalist who heads the Algerian Renewal Party, said on Sunday he will stand for the election and stated he wants to be Algeria's "man of rebuilding and reconciliation."

Algeria's military-backed government, fighting an armed challenge of radicals, said last week it would hold free and fair presidential elections on Nov. 16.

The country's main militant group, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), denounced the election as an attempt by the authorities to win legitimacy and vowed to stop the vote.

The main opposition political movements have dismissed the election plan, saying it will only prolong violence and the suffering of Algeria's 28 million people.

Meanwhile, gunmen fatally shot an elderly Muslim cleric and a journalist in the latest pre-election violence, reports said.

The government appointed cleric, 73-year-old Salah Boutine, was fatally shot Sunday in his mosque following afternoon prayers, security forces said in a statement.

He was the 54th imam to be slain in the three-year-old insurgency which Amour Ouagueni, 36, who worked for the French-language daily Le Matin, was shot Sunday in a residential area of the capital, the Ouagueni died of his wounds Monday, becoming the 48th journalist killed during the insurgency.

There was no claim of responsibility for the shootings, though suspicion fell on the Armed Islamic Group. The newspaper's director was killed last year in an attack claimed by the group, known by its French initials GIA.

Callers for the group have claimed responsibility for Thursday's Paris bomb attack that wounded 17 people near the Arc de Triomphe, and a Paris regional subway bombing in July that killed seven and injured 84.

The GIA condemns France for supporting the government in the former colony.

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN	
Dep. Amman 8:10 a.m. every Monday	
Dep. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday	
Dep. Amman 7:30 a.m. every Sunday	
Dep. Amman 5:30 p.m. every Sunday	
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in lils per kg.	
Apple	710 / 500
Banana	600 / 400
Banana (Mukammari)	620 / 80
Cabbage	120 / 80
Carrot	320 / 220
Cauliflower	480 / 280
Cucumbers (large)	280 / 200
Cucumbers (small)	200 / 100
Eggplant	300 / 100
FIP	380 / 280
Garlic	680 / 500
Grapes	450 / 300
Lemon	300 / 100
Marrow (large)	300 / 100
Marrow (small)	380 / 250
Mulukhia	120 / 80
Onion (dry)	750 / 600
Orange	220 / 120
Peas	480 / 280
Pepper (hot)	750 / 600
Pepper (sweet)	200 / 100
Portalo	200 / 100
String Beans	320 / 220
Sweet Melon	520 / 400
Tomato	280 / 180
Water Melon	1400 / 100

Iran set to control body

Iran set to control body
civil war. Mr. Bruijri
"We are very concerned
about the continuing
expressed our hope to
early settlement here."
The conflict in Afghanistan
has shifted to the
northern-central provinces
where rival Shiite and
Sunnite factions are battling for
control.
Mr. Bruijri said he
prepared to send a delegation
to the northern provinces
controlled by the Taliban
if it would help
the situation.
But Mr. Aftab said
he offered, saying, "The
domestic problems that
refer to solve ourselves."
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the eastern town of Jalal
to meet former prime minister
and opposition leader
Hekmatyar. But he
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was not available.
In January, Mr. Bruijri
accused Iran of giving
financial support to the
Shiite opposition in the
Vahdat Party, which
has been fighting for
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driven out.
But in a remark, he
said Kabul had put the
behind, Mr. Lefebvre
relieved the Iranian
element was pursuing
its policy towards Afghanistan
and that relations
between the two sides
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n Nov. 16.
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group, the Islamic
Front (FIS), de-
clared an election as an
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tain and vowed to sup-
port.
The main opposi-
tion movement has
called the election, say-
ing it will only prolong
the suffering of Af-
ghanis.
Meanwhile, gunmen
killed an elderly Afghan
in a journalist in the
re-election violence.
The government
appointed cleric, 75-
year-old Bousheini, was
shot Sunday in his
home after his arrest.
Security forces said a
suspect was in the
area.
He was the 54th
in a series of three-
day assassinations, which
began in 1994, when
the French-language
Marin, was shot in a
residential area of the
city, the newspaper said.
Mr. Ouagueni died of
wounds Monday, be-
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There was no claim
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The newspaper's director
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ing its French initials
were the group's
aimed responsibility
for the Paris bombing
which wounded 17 people.
The group's regional
leader, a 30-year-old
man, was killed in a
gun battle in July that
killed 34.
The GIA condemned
the killing, saying it
was supporting the
group in the former

Queen celebrates 44th birthday today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor celebrates her 44th birthday today. Since the beginning of the year, the Queen has been particularly active and has accepted several new international responsibilities in addition to her many activities and projects.
She became the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the United Nations University International Leadership Academy, which will be based in Amman and will be the first global leadership training facility and the first United Nations institution to be initiated and established in the Middle East.
In March, Queen Noor succeeded Prince Charles of England by becoming the first woman and the first Middle Eastern President of the United World College (UWC), which is an equal-opportunity education programme with nine colleges throughout the world for high school students that aims to promote peace and international understanding.
She also chaired the "Reclaiming Civil Society" symposium organised by the American University's Centre for the Study of the Global South at the U.N. World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen.
On July 22, His Majesty King Hussein entrusted Queen Noor with the

responsibility of chairing and establishing the National Task Force for Children which will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the National Plan of Action, based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
Foremost among Queen Noor's responsibilities are her duties as the Chairwoman of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), which she established in 1985.
NHF programmes have successfully advanced and modernised development thinking by progressing beyond traditional social welfare practices to integrate social development strategies more closely with national economic priorities, especially through the empowerment of women.
Building upon Jordan's traditions and heritage, the Foundation initiates and supports national, regional and international projects in the fields of education, women and community development, child welfare, culture and heritage.
The NHF projects, which are designed to be locally sustainable and replicable, have received international recognition as development models for the Middle East and the developing world.
The World Health Organisation (WHO) is planning to establish a regional centre in Jordan based on the method-



ology of the NHF's Quality of Life Project, while Harvard University described NHF's Institute for Child Health and Development as "a model for the region with the best psycho-social services of any country in the Middle East."
Queen Noor received four international awards this year, among which are the "United Nations Environment Programme Global 500 Award" for her efforts to conserve the environment, to promote awareness

Lebanon, Jordan sign new agricultural agreement

By Khalil Abdul Salam
Special to the Jordan Times

Amman — Jordan and Lebanon Tuesday signed an agreement on agricultural cooperation geared to promote trade and facilitate the exchange of agricultural products as well as technical expertise.
The agreement was signed by Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif and his Lebanese counterpart, Shawqi Fakhouri.
In a statement following the signing of the agreement, Mr. Ben Tarif said the accord was the culmination of three days of talks on promoting exchange of agricultural products and expertise between the two countries.
He added that the agreement will serve the interests of the agricultural sector in both countries, noting that it is a step on the path of Arab agricultural integration.
The minister said Jordan will provide Lebanon's Ministry of Agriculture with 400,000 saplings of forest trees, and will train Lebanese cadres in such areas as afforestation and drip-irrigation.
For his part, Mr. Fakhouri said the agreement will



Lebanese Minister of Agriculture Shawqi Fakhouri Tuesday tours agricultural research projects in Baka'a (Petra photo)

facilitate exchange of agricultural goods and expertise between both countries, adding that Lebanon is a good market for Jordanian products.
Under the agreement Jordan will export to Lebanon tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, marrow, beans and watermelon, and Lebanon will export to Jordan potatoes, oranges, lemons, grapes and apples.
The two sides agreed to issue the necessary importation licences to facilitate the flow of agricultural products to both countries.
Mr. Fakhouri, who met with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday had said the Lebanese government was studying a Jordanian invitation to participate in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit due in October.
The Prime Minister was quoted as saying that Jordan was ready to offer assistance to Lebanon in reconstructing its national economy following 15 years of civil strife.

Trade with S. Arabia heads for positive turn, says minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif Tuesday said that trade between Jordan and Saudi Arabia was expected to take a positive turn in the coming days since the recent improvement of relations between Amman and Riyadh.
Speaking upon his opening of the Middle East Fair-95 at the Amman International Expo in Marj Al Hamam, the minister said he hopes that Saudi Arabia and Jordan will soon begin exchanging greater amounts of agricultural products.
The food and agricultural fair lasts until Aug. 25 and is displaying seeds, pesticides, agricultural and irrigation

equipment, packaging and packing materials, olives, veterinary medicines, plastic sheets, dairy products, poultry farm equipment and vegetables and fruits.
The minister said that several foreign companies displaying items at the fair have expressed interest in launching joint ventures with local companies for the production of farm inputs.
Private and public firms from 10 Arab and foreign countries are taking part in the fair said the minister who noted that the fair aims at giving the local companies the chance to benefit from foreign technology and expertise in agricultural production.

Zarqa University to open

ZARQA (J.T.) — The first stage of the Zarqa State University, to be named the Hashemite University of Zarqa, will be completed early next month and will open its doors to students by Sept. 16 along with other universities, according to an announcement made Tuesday by Mudar Badran, chairman of the university's Royal Commission, while on a visit to the campus site.
Referring to the progress of work on the project, Mr. Badran, a former prime minister, said work was proceeding according to plan, and the new university will initially accept 510 students in the faculties of science, arts, education, economics and administrative sciences.
Mr. Badran said the project, set up on 67,000 square metres, will eventually accommodate 15,000 students.
The cost of the university's preliminary stage of construction is estimated at JD 25 million, according to Mr. Badran.
The university currently comprises 13 class halls, lecture halls, a library, faculties of sciences, arts, administrative sciences, economics, education, and laboratories, making it the sixth state-run university in the country.

Darat Al Funun opens art festival in soothing summer airs

By May Muzaffar
Special to the Jordan Times
Amman — From its location overlooking the centre of Amman, Darat Al Funun (Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation) Tuesday celebrated the opening of its Summer '95 art festival.
The Festival, which will continue until the Sept. 28, was opened by Minister of Culture Samir Habbashneh, and was attended by a large crowd of art lovers and friends of this cultural monument who moved in and out of the multi-sectional building of the Darat, experiencing the pleasure of mixing art with nature.
The tender light of the setting sun intervened with the aroma of white jasmine and overwhelmed the gardens which hosted part of the art exhibition.
The programme set for this occasion aims at showing an integration of artistic activities. Five major exhibitions are simultaneously taking place, including: a graphic workshop that has been producing art works of several Arab artists over the past two years.
There are also exhibitions of drawings, photography and three-dimensional calligraphy, showing in the different pavilions of the two buildings.
Outdoors, taking place within nature, stands the controversial works of Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi and the most interesting object of the young Jordanian sculptor, Her Royal Highness Rajwa Bint Ali.
Also a series of lectures will be delivered during the days of the festival. These include: 3-Dimensional Experiments in culture by Usama Al Khalidi (Aug. 29), Graphic Art in the Arab World: Contemporary Art Printmaking by Rafi Nasiri (Iraq), Rashid Diah (Sudan) and Khalid Khreis (Jordan) (Sept. 5); Materials in Contemporary Sculpture by Dr. Khreis (Sept. 19), and finally architect Ammar Khamash (Jordan) will hold a slide show on Petra through the lens of an architect on Sept. 26.
Video films focusing on world famous modern artists (Picasso, Matisse, Nagoshi and Calder) will be shown from Sept. 9 to 14.
Bringing the evening to a close, Syrian composer and singer Bashar Zarkan gave a concert, singing a selection of famous Sufi poetry set to his own original compositions for oud, thus ending a very special night in which traditions closely embraced modernism, in quite a dramatic encounter.
The writer is an Iraqi poet and art critic. She contributed this article to the

Jordan, Syria hope to facilitate cross border travel, transport

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian-Syrian committee in charge of facilitating transit and transport between the two countries opened a three-day meeting in Amman Tuesday with special focus on ways to reduce formalities and routine to a minimum for travellers and goods crossing the common border.
A statement following the initial meeting, co-chaired by Ministry of Transport Secretary General Awad Tal and Omar Shurbaji, advisor to the Syrian Transport Minister, stressed the need for the two sides to accord each other reciprocal treatment in matters concerning entry fees, customs duty and the transit of trucks across their territory on their way to a third country.
Coordinating policies and adopting effective measures to combat smuggling operations, the effective organisation of procedures for overland transport that has recently witnessed an increase in traffic between the two countries, and control over vehicle axial weights are among the topics on the agenda.
The statement said that the



Ministry of Transport Secretary General Awad Tal (fourth right) and Omar Shurbaji, advisor to the Syrian Transport Minister, Tuesday meet with their accompanying teams to discuss reducing border crossing formalities (Petra photo)

two sides hope to conclude the meetings by endorsing a new overland transport agreement on these issues and covering all matters related to the transport of goods and passenger travel.
At the outset of the meeting Mr. Shurbaji said that the proposed agreement will provide for better organisation of the transport and transit operations between Jordan and Syria.
Mr. Tal said the committee hopes to simplify procedures at the border posts and overcome all outstanding obstacles on travel and transit operations.

Farmers demand stricter punishment for pesticide abuses

By Marian Nimry
Special to the Jordan Times

Amman — Farmers and individuals demanded that the government apply more severe punishments against those who misuse pesticides and blamed it for not providing farmers and workers with educational programmes and advice to help them produce a healthier product for consumption.
These accusations were hurled at the government at a recent symposium entitled "Pesticides and Their Effect on Health and the Environment," at the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Complex.
"Pesticides are two-edged swords" said Ahmad Khasawneh, director of the Pesticide Residue Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture.
"On the one hand they will give us better products and will make it more worthwhile for the farmers to cultivate their land, but on the other hand the residues left may have adverse effects on human beings and the environment," he said.
Pesticide substitutes were suggested by Tawfiq Mustafa, a plant protection professor at the Agriculture Department at the University of Jordan.
Dr. Mustafa recommended more natural methods of pest control such as "pruning and burning, and using natural enemies of pests."
An example of "natural enemies" would be cats used to kill rats or ladybirds to kill mites.
He said such alternatives would have to be economically feasible for the farmer to adopt.
If that were possible, then farming under these methods "would give us healthier produce and a healthier environment," Dr. Mustafa said.
A proposal for reducing the harm done by organochlorine pesticides in general, and DDT (dichlorodiphenyl trichloroethane) in particular, was submitted by Kifayah Rajeh, a member of the Jordan Environmental Society (JES).
"Although DDT was banned in Jordan in the mid-eighties, it was still being used heavily until Dec. 31, 1994 to combat flies carrying malaria, especially in the Jordan Valley area. DDT has an accumulative effect in the body which can last for up to 30 years" said Ms. Rajeh.
"It is stored in fat and its only way out is through breast milk."
In a sample of 411 Jordanian women from the northern and central Jordan Valley, Amman, Zarqa and Irbid, 84 per cent of these women were found to have a "higher than normal percentage of chlorinated pesticides in their breast milk," according to Ms. Rajeh, whose 1994 M.A. thesis dealt with the issue of pesticide residues in breast milk.
"What most people do not understand is that I am not asking women not to breast feed their babies but asking the government to set up centres where breast milk could be examined and breast feeding times limited in accordance with the results of these tests," explained Ms. Rajeh.
Mr. Khasawneh pointed the finger of blame on farmers for misusing pesticides and not adhering to the instructions on pesticide containers and by disrespecting proposed safety times (the interval between spraying and harvesting).
But farmers present at the symposium claimed no provision on the government's part had been made for agricultural advice, and that labels on pesticide containers were not translated into Arabic.
Mr. Khasawneh, in turn, denied those accusations, stressing that the Ministry of Agriculture does provide farmers with help from agricultural engineers, and distributes pamphlets and instructions on the use of pesticides, but that farmers continue to misuse the chemical product.
"Laws passed are not being implemented, and punishments take the form of light fines and virtually no prison time," said Iman Moqbel, a lawyer formerly with the Jordan Environmental Society.
"And unless there were proven cases of mass poisoning, proven cases of food manufacturing or storage near pesticides, or proven cases of pesticide dumping in drinking water, lawsuits against such abuses are very difficult to pursue, and culprits are very hard to pin down."
"We need harsher and more rigorous punitive actions taken by the government to deter farmers from overusing pesticides and slowly killing people and polluting the environment," said Ms. Moqbel.

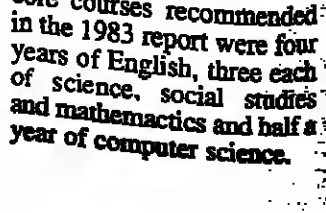
WHAT'S GOING ON

- DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '95 EXHIBITIONS**
 - Works of graphic art by several artists at the South Gallery.
 - Photography show "Elements in Harmony" by Hala Hodeib at the Blue House.
 - Display of pointed stone and steel, "Embargo Art" by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House.
 - "Early Morning Scribbles" by Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and "Late Night Scribbles" by Amin Al Basha and artist Ali Bermamet at the North Gallery.
 - Ceramic shop at the lower Garden.
 - Sculpture by Rajwa Bint Ali at the Open Air Sculpture Workshop.
 - Works by contemporary artists at the Central Gallery.
 - 3-D experiments in calligraphy by Usama Khalidi at the library.
- PLAY**
 - "Badranah," (in Arabic) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.
- CHILDREN'S FILM**
 - "The Wind in the Willows," at the British Council, at 7:00 p.m.
- LECTURE**
 - "The Document of the Women's Beijing Conference - Jordanian Remarks," by Dr. Salim Sweiss and Ms. Suhair Tal at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jahl Amman at 6:30 p.m.

MARKET PRICES

Item	Price
Wheat (Mukammal)	100
Wheat (Sagha)	95
Wheat (Sagha)	90
Wheat (Sagha)	85
Wheat (Sagha)	80
Wheat (Sagha)	75
Wheat (Sagha)	70
Wheat (Sagha)	65
Wheat (Sagha)	60
Wheat (Sagha)	55
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Wheat (Sagha)	15
Wheat (Sagha)	10
Wheat (Sagha)	5
Wheat (Sagha)	0

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The Hebron dilemma

HEBRON IS turning out to be a major hurdle facing the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. Disagreement about the future of the city is preventing the conclusion of negotiations on the expansion of the Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank. At a time when Israeli negotiators seem ready to accept the "redeployment" of Israeli troops away from all major West Bank cities and towns, Hebron is being stubbornly excluded from the promised redeployment. The Israeli stand raises questions about what Israel hopes to achieve from its refusal to reach an acceptable agreement about the city. Is Israel using the Hebron card as a bargaining chip to be resorted to when the time comes for the determination of the status of East Jerusalem? Is it too far-fetched to think that Israel seeks to make concessions on Hebron at the end of the day in return for major Palestinian concessions on East Jerusalem?

Some Israeli zealots and religious fanatics view Hebron as one of the holiest of their holy places. It is the same tune that we have become accustomed to hearing whenever Jerusalem is mentioned. To hush its claim to at least part of the city and its Al Ibrahim Mosque, Israel has implanted some 400 Jewish settlers in the heart of the city and gave them a right to pray at the mosque, literally shoulder to shoulder with the Muslim worshippers. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has refused to back away on Hebron and insists on including it in the current negotiations before the two parties can head for Washington to seal their comprehensive accord on the second phase of their Oslo agreement.

It looks like there could be stalemate on this score as long as Israel adds Hebron to its list of the "non-negotiable." The Palestinian side is totally right in calling for treating Hebron equally with the other Palestinian cities and towns. This is not only a Palestinian request but an Arab and Muslim demand on which there can be no wavering neither now nor in the future. It was wrong in the first place to let few hundred Jewish settlers move in to the centre of the city and make it their home. Given the ill-feelings that still exist between Jews and Arabs, it was folly in the extreme to let this happen right from the start.

The massacre of scores of Palestinian worshippers at the Al Ibrahim Mosque by a Jewish settler more than a year ago is a vivid example of what could happen as long as the two peoples are "mixed" together in such an irresponsible way. Instead of attempting to share or divide the city, Israel should put it entirely under Palestinian control on an equal footing with other Palestinian cities from which Israel has agreed to withdraw. The Jewish settlers should be given a choice between accepting Palestinian jurisdiction or leaving from the city altogether. There is no other viable option. Israel cannot but realise this reality and act upon it in a way that would ensure a successful conclusion of its peace talks with the Palestinians.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAI Arabic daily Monday blamed the bus explosion in occupied Jerusalem on the Israeli government and its policies against the Palestinian people. It is natural to see such violence occurring in the occupied Arab lands as long as occupation continues and atrocities are committed against the Palestinian people day and night, said the daily. The Israeli government is wrong to believe that by closing the West Bank and Gaza and by sealing off Jerusalem in the face of Arab worshippers, Israel cannot achieve security or bring about an end to violence, said the paper. Only when Israel pulls out its forces from the Arab lands and stops the practices of the settlers, and gives back to the Palestinians their rights in their lands and water and holy shrines can the chain of explosions come to an end, added the daily. The Israeli government should expect more acts of violence in the future because it continues to occupy Arab land and should realise that the closure of the Arab territories after each act can by no means prevent the resistance by Palestinians, continued the daily. The paper said that the Israelis are living an illusion that their security is ensured while their government continues to drag its feet over the implementation of the second phase of the Oslo agreement and allow the settlers to wreak havoc in the occupied Arab lands.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said that it is unacceptable to see members of Parliament absenting themselves from sessions without due cause at a time when the nation expects the deputies to finalise debate of draft laws of national interest. Mohammed Subeishi said that seldom does a civil servant absent himself from work without permission and if he does he risks facing penalties but Parliament members escape any censure when they purposely avoid attending a Parliament session. Furthermore, said Mr. Subeishi, the public, which elected these parliamentarians to represent them before the government, has the right to know about any dereliction and which of the deputies continually and without excuse absent themselves from sessions because this will help them make a better choice in future elections, said the writer.

By Robert Waller

THREE YEARS into his presidency, Bill Clinton has finally spelled out his strategy for protecting America in the new world order. The plan — "A National Security Strategy of Engagement and Enlargement" — was released by the White House in February. The Pentagon, relieved at finally receiving some coherent direction for the post-cold war environment, was then able to frame its regional strategies in terms of the president's strategic vision. Accordingly, in May Secretary of Defence William Perry unveiled the new "United States Security Strategy for the Middle East." Both documents are useful barometers of U.S. strategic thought.

The new strategy has some commendable points. Take, for example, the Pentagon's rejection of the "clash of civilisations" argument. U.S. officials, particularly within the State Department, have been at pains to emphasise that the U.S. has no quarrel with Islam. The military's endorsement of this viewpoint should not be overlooked, particularly in the wake of NATO Secretary General Willy Claes' notorious remarks to the opposite effect. As the Pentagon sees it, "the true clash is within civilisations, between extremists and moderates." Extremism in this context is not a euphemism for hostility to Western influences; rather, it means using violence to further a political agenda.

Unlike Hollywood, the Clinton administration differentiates (in theory, if only somewhat tentatively in practice) between Islamists — Muslims who espouse Islam as a political solution — and violent Islamist extremists.

America's ability to project military power into the Middle East has undergone a stunning expansion from its nadir in 1980 — when the failed hostage rescue mission in Iran became a symbol of American impotence — to the present day, when "it is not unusual" for the U.S. to have 20,000 soldiers in the Gulf. The defence department estimates that in 1980 it would have required three months to deploy a single heavy division to the Gulf. By 1990, hard-won concessions

from the Gulf states enabled the initial deployment for Desert Shield to be completed within three weeks. Agreements concluded following the Gulf war have narrowed the time frame even further. Iraq once again appeared to threaten Kuwait October 1994, the U.S. response — Operation Vigilant Warrior — moved heavy units from Georgia to Kuwait in just three days. With 20 U.S. warships patrolling the Gulf and military access agreements signed with ten Arab states, the U.S. clearly has the enlargement portion of President Clinton's strategy down cold.

Mismatch between strategy and policy
Such an increase in military capability is sobering in itself. Ever more sobering, this growth has not been paralleled by refinement of strategic vision. Careful analysis reveals disturbing mismatch between the putative strategy and actual administration policy in the Middle East.

Engagement, the flagship of Mr. Clinton's strategy, founders upon the shores of the Gulf, where American strategy is not engagement but "dual containment" of Iran and Iraq. The rationale for this abrupt volte face is never explained, although it begs the question of whether diplomatic and economic engagement is a viable strategy for protecting American interests. If so, why does it not apply in the Middle East? President Clinton asserts a willingness to enter into "an authoritative dialogue" with Iran,

but America has yet to launch any meaningful diplomatic overture. If free enterprise will promote political reform in Beijing and Pyongyang, why is America pursuing the opposite tack with Tehran? Does America engage only those powers, like China, with are too powerful to contain?

Moreover, dual containment is a misnomer. Certainly American policy towards Libya, which the Pentagon lumps with Iran and Iraq as "backlash states"; merits the title triple containment. If the Islamists come to power in Algeria, will U.S. policy become "quadruple containment"? One wonders if National Security Adviser Tony Lake, one of the authors of the dual containment policy, has finished exploring the exponential possibilities of his brainchild.

The crux of any security strategy is how it addresses the questions of when, where and why a state will fight to protect its interests. Secretary Perry has boiled down the White House language to "three criteria for determining whether a threat affects U.S. vital interests." The first two are straightforward enough: if it (the threat) threatens the survival of the U.S., or its key allies, or if it threatens critical U.S. economic interests. The third criterion is if a threat poses the danger of a future nuclear threat. What with threats posing dangers of future threats, one implication is clear: the Pentagon has reinvented the tautology.

Which are the Arab key allies?

The ambiguity is somewhat intentional. President Clinton believes America has an enduring interest in "assuring the security of Israel and our Arab friends." The Pentagon describes the U.S. commitment to Israel's security as "unshakable", for a myriad of "historic, political, and moral reasons" (the word strategic is conspicuously absent). But are all Arab friends key allies? The U.S. will intervene to protect Kuwait or Saudi Arabia, but what of Jordan, or of Egypt and Morocco, whose governments must cope with burgeoning, disenfranchised populations? American officials have generally balked at making expansive or explicit security commitments to such nations. As is the case of Algeria, they are wary of allying the U.S. with a repressive regime, thus repeating the mistakes made in Iran. This leaves some of America's friends in the lurch. On the one hand, the Pentagon paper identifies Egypt as a principal Arab partner. On the other, politicians know the American public will support a war for oil or to save Israel, but little else. Memories of Beirut and Somalia linger.

This article was written before the recent developments in June and before the U.S. pledged to stand by Jordan against any "threats".

Washington's policy is more forthright regarding the second criterion, critical

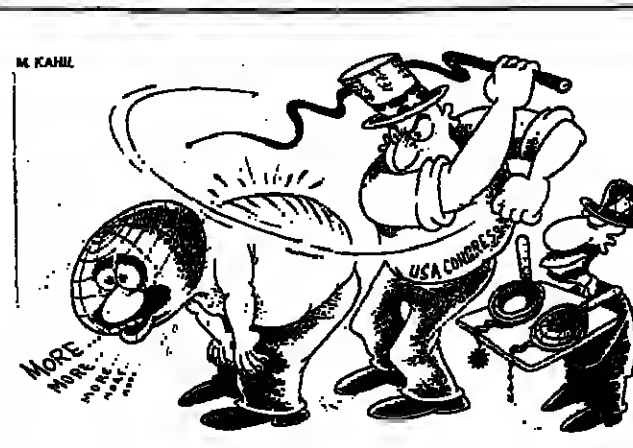
economic interests. The Pentagon candidly admits that the U.S. will be even more dependent upon Gulf oil early in the next century than it is at present. Thus both documents stress the importance of "maintaining the unhindered flow of oil from the Gulf to world markets at stable prices" (Pentagon wording). The White House used the more loaded phrase, "at reasonable prices". The Gulf Arabs can figure out the implications.

As for threats which pose the danger of future nuclear threats, strategists define threat as a combination of capability and intent (one in the absence of the other is merely a risk). Iran and Iraq have intent but still lack a nuclear weapons capability; Libya has neither of the two. The fact that all three states are labelled as proliferation threats rather than risks constitutes a priori justification for unilateral U.S. military action against them. Washington, not eager to repeat its experience with North Korea, is unlikely to allow the Iranian nuclear programme to reach the "some assembly required" point, even if Tehran does manage to present a fait accompli, no one believes the U.S. will merely buy out their nuclear programme as well. In describing the administration's counter-proliferation policy, the White House document asserts that America retains the capacity (and by implication, the right) "to retaliate against those who might co-opt the use of weapons of mass destruction."

Retaliation for contemplation, rather than actual usage, takes deterrence to a dangerous and fuzzy horizon. At what point will contemplation translate into a military strike? Having prescribed itself the latitude to pre-emptively attack any potential nuclear threat, can Washington resist employing such a policy, or will counter-proliferation take the form of cruise missiles over Tehran in the near future? The dramatic ramifications of this new strategy have generated little comment, so here is one worth mulling over: only one state in the Middle East has a nuclear capability — and history amply demonstrates that intentions are fickle indeed.

Middle East International.

The U.S.' Middle East security strategy



Chinese-American relations need quiet repair

By Walter Russel Mead

NEW YORK — The downhill slide in relations between the United States and China is a dangerous development.

The friction is not the result of amateurish missteps by America, or congressional demagoguery on Taiwan. Nor does it reflect paralysis in China over the struggle to succeed Deng Xiaoping. Something much deeper and much worse is at work: A potential clash between what the two countries perceive to be their vital interests.

Unless China breaks up after Mr. Deng dies, or suffers a Soviet-style economic implosion, tensions between the two countries seem fated to grow.

This is hard for Americans to understand. No one in America wants a diplomatic confrontation, much less a war, with China. Yes, read them stiff lectures on human rights, Americans say. After all, we criticise many countries for human rights violations. It is our national pastime. And yes, fight for our economic interests in trade negotiations. That's business. But the public seems to have no sense that a broader, deeper confrontation seems to be brewing. American diplomacy looks increasingly sinister from Beijing.

China is emerging from two centuries of weakness and humiliation. It is finally mastering Western technologies and economic ideas. Many Chinese feel that at long last they are in a position to command the respect and consideration they deserve. But, everywhere China looks, America gets in its face.

The United States welcomes the Dalai Lama and the president of Taiwan. It buries the hatchet with Hanoi and talks about "mutual interests" with the Vietnam it once loathed

and fought. It stiffens the spine of the Southeast Asian countries in their dispute with China over ownership of the potentially oil-rich Spratly Islands. It roars like a lion over human rights violations in Chinese Tibet, but squeals like a mouse about Boris Yeltsin's attack on Chechnya. It continues its security cooperation with Japan and, along with South Korea, seems determined to increase its contacts and influence in North Korea.

Not content with all this, now the United States is knocking on China's back door. American oil executives are negotiating deals and acting as de facto diplomats in Central Asia.

The more paranoid elements in the leadership in Beijing talk about American "encirclement" of China. But even levelheaded Chinese see a persistent pattern of American opposition to their legitimate aspirations and interests.

The United States lectures about free trade even as it opposes China's drive to join the World Trade Organisation. Americans don't think about history much, but the Chinese remember that American and British merchants have been lecturing China about free trade since the 1830s, when they denounced China's efforts to ban "free trade" in opium.

Now, the Chinese feel, American commercial interests are as hypocritical and self-serving as ever. China has discovered ways to make industrial goods that are competitive with American products. What does America do but whine about its trade deficit and threaten China with sanctions?

The United States discriminated against Chinese immigrants and put their children in segregated schools. The Chinese still feel that some of the moral

energy Americans devote to discussing China's shortcomings could be usefully diverted to perfecting conditions in the United States.

Americans' hostility seems more surprising to the Chinese because we were so recently so warm. In the 1970s, once President Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger broke the ice, China was a strategic partner against the Soviet Union.

The political relationship cooled off in the late 1970s, but the economic relationship steadily improved. China was every businessman's favourite emerging market, and under President George Bush the United States had relatively few complaints about Chinese trade practices.

China today is a much freer society than the place Richard Nixon visited when the Gang of Four still ruled. It is a far better place for foreigners to do business in than it was 10 years ago. So why, the Chinese wonder, are Americans so critical?

The United States has a different perspective, seeing the relationship in the context of its wider Asian policies.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, U.S. power and responsibility on the Pacific Rim grew steadily. After World War II, America assumed the same position in Asia that it held in Europe: Guaranteeing stability by ensuring that no one country became strong enough to dominate the rest. Now that the Soviet Union has disappeared, China is becoming strong enough to challenge the Pacific Rim balance of power. Already, Americans worry, it is throwing its weight around in the region.

By threatening its neighbours over the Spratly Islands and by taking a belligerent tone with Taiwan, China seems to be acting like the kind of bad neigh-

bour that the United States needs to deter.

Yet Americans also see the Communist leadership as clearly unstable. Many of China's best and brightest have been alienated by the regime. The struggle to succeed the aging Deng Xiaoping reveals the weakness of China's political institutions and the fragility of its social order.

China's record abroad is equally troubling. Even sympathetic observers think that China may not really know what it wants. Its policy lurches from confrontation to conciliation, and any extension of Chinese influence tends to have a destabilising effect.

In the circumstances, America and other countries have no choice but to treat China with caution. Growing Chinese strength worries China's neighbours, causing them to strengthen their ties with America. This worries China, which tries to parry American diplomacy and break out of the perceived encirclement. Washington responds with greater efforts, and so on.

Cycles like this can lead to wars. In the early 20th century, Britain feared Germany's growing power, and Germany feared British encirclement. Both sides lurched towards a confrontation, each sincerely convinced that it was acting defensively and from the noblest of motives.

The United States and China will have a hard time reaching an understanding. Neither country trusts the other. Their political, economic and cultural systems are so different that they have trouble understanding each other.

If China stays united and continues to grow, it will indisputably become the leader of its region. The Chinese need to learn that power does not flow from the barrel of the gun. Leadership and dictatorship are not the same thing. China needs to find ways

to avoid confrontation as it consolidates its new position. Economic advantage, political sensitivity and stable institutions can create a positive international environment for a strong, rich and united China.

Beyond this, China needs to deploy a vision of its place in the region and the world. It needs to safeguard its interests without threatening the neighbours — and without triggering American instincts of opposition.

America must also do some thinking. What is the U.S. vision for China's role in the world? How can America design a special relationship with China? How can it balance China's right to an enhanced regional profile with America's interests and commitments?

There are steps Washington can take immediately. The most important have to do with Taiwan. The one-China policy is the cornerstone of the U.S.-China relationship and should be reaffirmed by a congressional resolution. Washington should refrain from responding to Chinese military manoeuvres with shows of force. And America should give its missionary instincts a rest. It has left China in no doubt about U.S. dissatisfaction with its human rights policies. It might be worth changing the subject for a while.

In the longer-term, by supporting quick Chinese membership in the World Trade Organisation on reasonably favourable terms, Washington would not only ease Chinese concerns but also engage China in a multilateral forum for discussions of trade problems.

The writer, a fellow at the World Policy Institute at the New School for Social Research in New York City, contributed this comment to The New York Times.

It occurred to me...

By Ali Kassal

Labour Pains

Labour relations in Jordan, like everything else, for that matter, have a style of their own. The foreign investor who contemplates setting up shop in this country would be well advised to learn and apply them if he wants his enterprise to prosper.

The first rule concerns recruitment. Foreigners have a silly approach where they draw organisational charts with lines all over the place, squares, titles, job descriptions, and the qualifications required for each position. This is an unadulterated waste of time. In Jordan we dispense with form and go directly to the substance. We identify the principal client (or the person whose good will is needed for the successful conclusion of a deal) and employ someone from his tribe. This practice has the advantage of sparing us the bother of screening candidates. You need only visit the personage concerned under any pretext, and nine times out of ten, he would pull a jobless relation out of a hat and attach him to your personnel.

So, now that you have your staff member, you may wonder what to do with him. After a short time in Jordan you will discover that such contemplation is a waste of mental energy. Whichever job title and responsibilities you entrust to your Jordanian employee, the result is one: You see, the Jordanians' thirst for knowledge is so strong that your staff will devote their entire careers to improving their minds by endlessly reading the obituary columns in the dailies, and debating the finer points of world politics. This, if the reader will pardon the digression, explains why our Arabic dailies are twice as big on working days than on weekends. Finally, comes the day when you need the return favour from your staffer's relation in high office, whereupon you invite both for a mansaf. In course of this sumptuous meal the person of consequence will digest the finer points of your proposal, and acknowledge the advisability of granting you the contract. Once this point is achieved, you can proceed to employ as many foreigners as you need to do the work involved, should the whim take you to fulfil your part of the agreement.

By now you will be wondering if the extra wages will not raise the cost of the project to uneconomic proportions. This is where Jordan's system of labour relations saves the day. People in Jordan are not expected to live off their wages. Consequently, you contract your staff (the ones that work, not the ones that bring in the business) for monthly salaries that cannot see them through a week, and make sure never to pay them in full. Consequently, these employees will live forever in the expectation of payments owed to them, and while this situation lasts, they are not likely to leave your employment. A secondary consequence is that they will start doing odd jobs on the side, using your office equipment, which, in turn, will be your moral justification for not paying them an adequate salary in the first place. It really is quite straightforward, you know.

Westerners often wonder why we do not employ people qualified to do the job required, make sure that they do it, and pay them an adequate salary for doing it. That's Westerners for you... They throw their weight around with no due regard for the finer subtleties of our way of life.

Tighter government supervision needed in financial deals — IMF

WASHINGTON (AP) — Citing banking disasters in the United States and Singapore, a report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) urges tighter government controls over financial deals.

Problems with banks in Japan and France also warranted more government intervention, says the fund in its annual report on capital markets.

"It is essential that capital-impaired institutions not be allowed to operate without very close supervision, particularly if the government... insures deposits," said the report, which was distributed Monday.

The fund report sharply criticized what it called a policy of allowing lenders to "earn their way out of trouble." It said the United States did that at the start of problems with savings and loans institutions.

The IMF, which lends

money to governments in financial trouble and keeps watch on how they handle their finances, cited a problem with government forbearance in Japan, where banks in good shape often merge with ones in trouble.

"It is becoming more difficult to persuade the larger banks, which are beset with their own problem loans, to acquire insolvent banks," the report said.

It said depositors and investors in Japanese credit cooperatives were suffering because supervision came only from local authorities.

The report criticized the French government for not intervening sooner in the troubles of the state-owned Credit Lyonnais.

Failure to get out information was blamed as a leading element in the collapse earlier this year of Britain's 230-year-old Barings Bank. The bank suffered \$1.36 billion in

losses from high-risk trades by 28-year-old Singapore employee Nick Leeson, now fighting extradition to Singapore from a German jail.

"One of the lessons of the Barings collapse is that had there been greater information sharing among regulatory authorities in Singapore and the United Kingdom, and between the futures exchanges in Singapore, Osaka and Tokyo, the problem experienced by Barings may have surfaced early enough to prevent the collapse," the report said.

Lack of information also played a part in the collapse of the Mexican peso, the report said.

"Mexico had made available only limited economic data during 1994 and... (on the eve of the collapse) had difficulties preventing market participants from expecting the worst," the report said.

Residents of Mexico were the first to weaken the peso by switching their money into dollars and other stronger currencies because they had better information, it suggested.

"Domestic residents in developing country markets tend to be closer to sources of information about domestic economic events and prospects than foreign investors," it said.

Latest data underline Japan's economic woes

TOKYO (R) — Japan's economy received another disappointing diagnosis Tuesday, with the country's key index of leading economic indicators dropping sharply in June.

The index, closely watched as a barometer of trends in economic activity for the subsequent six months, fell to 9.1 in June on a scale of 100, down from 16.7 in May.

It was the second month in a row that the index — which is compiled from a basket of economic indicators such as job figures and money supply — has been below the so-called "boom or bust mark" of 50. A figure below 50 is generally taken as suggesting the economy could contract in the coming months.

The data underlined government admissions that the economy had come to a standstill after struggling for some time to make a clear recovery from recession. But the government was quick to deny the figures showed the economy was actually worsening.

A senior official from the government's Economic Planning Agency, which released the data, rejected any notion that June's figures indicated that the economy was contracting.

"The June data do not warrant a change in the government's assessment that the nation's economy is stalling," the official told reporters. "It is too early to change the official economic view by just looking at the figures for the two months (of May and June)," he added.

A separate report from Japan's central bank, also issued Tuesday, echoed the government view that the economy was trending water. The Bank of Japan's monthly report said the recovery remained at a standstill, although it noted some bright spots such as rising capital investment.

Japan's government first admitted in July that the nation's slow economic recovery had stalled. Until then, it had asserted that the economy was still recovering, albeit moderately, from the recession which followed the bursting of Japan's 1980s economic "bubble" of inflated land and stock prices.

Analysts, speaking to Reuters financial television, said the June figures fell due to poor industrial production, weak housing starts and the lingering negative psychological impact of the Tokyo nerve gas attacks in March.

They were, however, divided on whether Japan's recent poor economic performance was just a temporary deviation from a general economic recovery trend or not.

U.S. '95 budget gap may be lowest in six years

WASHINGTON (R) — The federal government ran up a smaller-than-expected deficit of \$13.58 billion in July, the Treasury Department said Monday, putting the 1995 budget gap on track to be the lowest in six years.

July's red ink was about half that expected by analysts, who said the deficit was trimmed by more than \$7 billion due to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) auction of space on the nation's airwaves.

Last month's deficit followed a revised surplus in June of \$12.81 billion that previously was reported as \$13.7 billion.

Analysts said the deficit is on track to match — or fall below — the Clinton administration's revised deficit forecast of \$160.0 billion for fiscal 1995, which ends Sept. 30.

"You can expect a budget deficit — barring any major surprises — of \$150 billion to \$155 billion for this year," said Kathleen Stephansen of Donaldson, Lufkin Jenrette Securities Corp.

That would make the deficit the smallest since \$152.5 billion in fiscal 1989. Healthy economic growth has enabled the government to bring in more tax revenues, analysts said.

Proceeds from the FCC auctions, which ended in March, were applied to the July deficit, analysts said. In that sale, the agency sold a valuable portion of the nation's airwaves for a new breed of wireless telephones, bringing in \$7.7 billion.

The deficit for the first 10 months of fiscal 1995 was \$137.25 billion, down from \$183.09 billion for the comparable 10-month period the prior year.

Kuwait MPs pass budget, want more deficit cuts

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's parliament Tuesday approved government budget plans aimed at cutting the deficit by 12 per cent in 1995/96 and called for more reductions in the shortfall in coming years.

The budget bill projects spending of 4.23 billion dinars (\$14.1 billion), revenue of 2.91 billion dinars (\$9.7 billion) and a net deficit of 1.32 billion dinars (\$4.4 billion).

The deficit cut comes mainly from an 11 per cent rise in forecast oil revenue to 2.49 billion dinars (\$8.3 billion) due to expected higher prices. The projected net deficit for 1994/95 was 1.503 billion dinars (\$5 billion).

The shortfall will be covered from the State General Reserve, one of the government's two main reserve funds.

The bill now goes for ratification to the emir, Sheikh Jaber Ahmad Al Sabah, a process that takes several weeks.

Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan told parliament that

he would submit a five-year deficit reduction plan to MPs by the start of the assembly's 1995/96 session in late October.

"The government attaches substantial importance to this issue (the deficit)," he said.

MP Mishari Al Osaimi, who has criticized the government for presiding over several years of large deficits, echoed demands by many MPs for more deficit reductions, but said that in view of Sheikh Rodhan's statement he would now vote for the 1995/96 budget.

Seventeen MPs abstained in a vote on the bill Saturday in effect blocking its passage, to back demands that ministers submit a long-term plan to cut the deficit.

The projects net deficit is equivalent to about a sixth of national wealth as measured by gross domestic product, estimated by Western economists at about \$24 billion for calendar 1994.

By law a 10th of state revenues are transferred to the government's Reserve

Fund for Future Generations (RFFG), the other main reserve fund, which is meant to help fund the country when oil runs out several decades from now.

The so-called gross budget deficit, which accounts for this transfer, is projected at 1.611 billion dinars (\$5.37 billion) in 1994/95. The country's fiscal year runs from July 1.

Economists say the state's official reserves have been almost halved by a leap in deficits caused by 1991 Gulf war costs and expensive oil-field repairs.

The deficit is directly related to national security because Kuwait would have to pay allies to come to its defense in any future emergency such as Iraq's 1990 invasion, diplomats say.

Officials say reducing the deficit will require politically sensitive cuts in a costly welfare state that provides lavish benefits and a tradition of state jobs for all Kuwaitis. Wages eat up more than half of the country's oil earnings.

Brazil president proposes major overhaul of tax system

BRASILIA (AP) — Saying that the government was preparing the country for inflation-free stability, President Fernando Henrique Cardoso Monday proposed a major overhaul in the country's tax system.

In an address and news conference broadcast nationwide, Mr. Cardoso said the tax reform package would reduce taxes, expand tax col-

lections and balance the budget.

The package, which will be sent later this week to congress, includes the elimination of export taxes on primary and semi-manufactured goods as well as the elimination of import and excise taxes on capital goods "that are indispensable for the modernization of our industrial park."

He proposed that max-

imum corporate tax rates be lowered from 48 per cent to 30 per cent.

He said the government wanted to revamp the country's highly "complex and bureaucratic" tax structure in which "increased tax rates lead to lower tax revenue."

"Of the four million companies registered, only 750,000 pay any taxes," Mr. Cardoso said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Find the mechanism which will make your home more functional and easier to run properly. Think of small investments you want to make.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can be very charming today and tonight. First handle business well, then start new social plans which include loved ones and close friends.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be with the one you love, and get into activities which are pleasing to you both. Then plan a flattering new wardrobe which helps your success.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a good day for repaying any social debts. Be happy with good friends. Friendships make your life richer and more worthwhile.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Do something which will show outside contacts that you value the relationship, and guarantee continuation. Dress well for your success.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get in touch with out-of-towners and show fondness for them. Plan that business or social trip so you can have an enjoyable time.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Do something especially nice for your mate to bring mutual happiness and respect. Try to save more money for later pleasure activities.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you impress upon partners how much you like to be with them, you will soon gain added benefits for the future. Be clever in your endeavors.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you are more thoughtful with fellow associates, you can change the atmosphere around you. Be happy in your family life.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Think over what amusements you want to take in and with whom. Be more affectionate with your mate and show that you care for him or her.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a fine time for entertaining guests at your home. Add art pieces or colour to your home and make it look more charming and inviting.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) State what you desire of allies, and express your ideas for a more prosperous future. Be sure you dress nicely so you make a good impression.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

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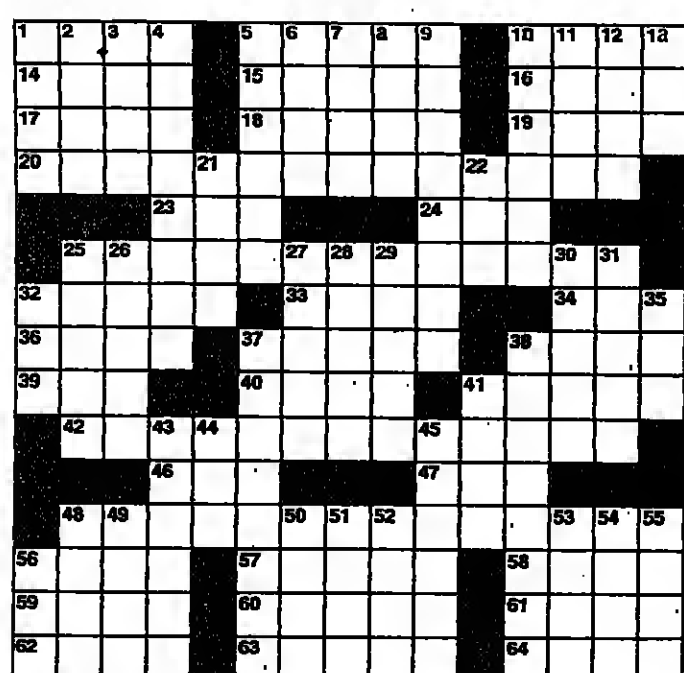
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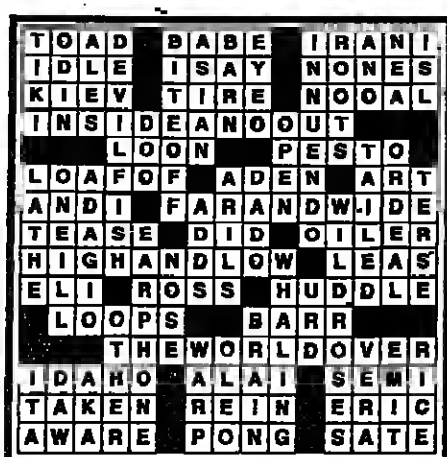
THE Daily Crossword by Grace C. Pinkston

- ACROSS**
- 1 Distort
 - 5 Gussy up
 - 10 Go separate ways
 - 14 Part of USA. abbr.
 - 15 "— of the Jungle"
 - 16 Theater award
 - 17 Prank
 - 18 City in Maine
 - 19 Tribal group
 - 20 Start of a Will Rogers quote
 - 23 Alley
 - 24 Employment ad abbr.
 - 25 More of 20A
 - 32 Images
 - 33 Assist
 - 34 Printer's measures
 - 35 Twitches
 - 37 Ripening factors
 - 38 War god
 - 39 Sign
 - 40 Tibetan gazelles
 - 41 Make amends
 - 42 More of 20A



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Yesterday's puzzle solved:



- 46 — Khan
- 47 Sea creature
- 48 End of quote
- 56 Josip Broz
- 57 "All I know is just what — in the papers" (Will Rogers)
- 58 Author Ephron
- 59 Out of range
- 60 Usher's domain
- 61 Walked on
- 62 Cossels
- 63 Famous
- 64 Poker stake
- 9 Planned undertakings
- 10 — veto
- 11 Competent
- 12 Inlets
- 13 Decimal base
- 21 Turn's partner
- 22 — la-la
- 25 Cake topping
- 26 Monkey
- 27 Cart
- 28 Nautical word
- 29 Succinct
- 30 Plumed bird
- 31 Revise
- 32 "Lord, is —?" (Biblic)
- 35 Comp. pt.
- 37 Pastoral
- 38 Maiden of myth
- 41 Egyptian crown
- 43 Gaseous substances
- 44 Self-esteem
- 45 Lacked
- 48 Rampant
- 49 Coup d' —
- 50 Small group
- 51 Trial
- 52 Compel to go
- 53 Trite humor
- 54 Move easily
- 55 Marquis de —
- 56 Spigot

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



"I've never had an office romance, but I do have strong feelings for the coffee machine."

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



Yeboah on target again as Leeds beat Liverpool

LEEDS (AFP) — An astonishing volley by Tony Yeboah sent Leeds to the top of the embryonic English Premiership table as Liverpool were left crying foul over a penalty that was not given here at Elland Road on Monday.

The £3.4 million (\$5.5 million) Ghanaian capture from Eintracht Frankfurt struck a ferocious shot from 25 yards to make it three in two games and maintain Leeds' 100 per cent start.

But Liverpool were left fuming about the tackle by John Pemberton on Stan Collymore that forced the British record signing to limp off with a damaged ankle.

Pemberton clattered into the £8.5 million striker as he advanced deep into the box in only the sixth minute, bringing him down with the ball out of the frame.

Insult was added to injury when Collymore, who had opened his Liverpool career with a stunning goal against Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday, had to make way for substitute Robbie Fowler.

Yeboah had begun the hugely-anticipated proceedings with a rising drive from

25 yards that did not trouble David James shortly before the Collymore incident.

Collymore drifted deep to take possession, instantly laid off to Ian Rush and sprinted for the return, taking the ball into the box.

Pemberton raced across and clearly caught the former Nottingham Forest man's ankle as he lunged in with the ball long gone.

Both referee David Elleray and his linesman were well-placed but none of the officials reacted in Liverpool's favour.

Collymore grasped his ankle as he lay on the ground and struggled onto a stretcher before receiving lengthy treatment.

Collymore shook his head as he limped around the field, departing — for a precautionary X-ray — to a chorus of jeers from the home fans in the 21st minute, with Robbie Fowler coming on in his place.

There had been precious little incident in the match before Yeboah took the roof off Elland Road six minutes after the restart.

Tony Dorigo hit the ball to

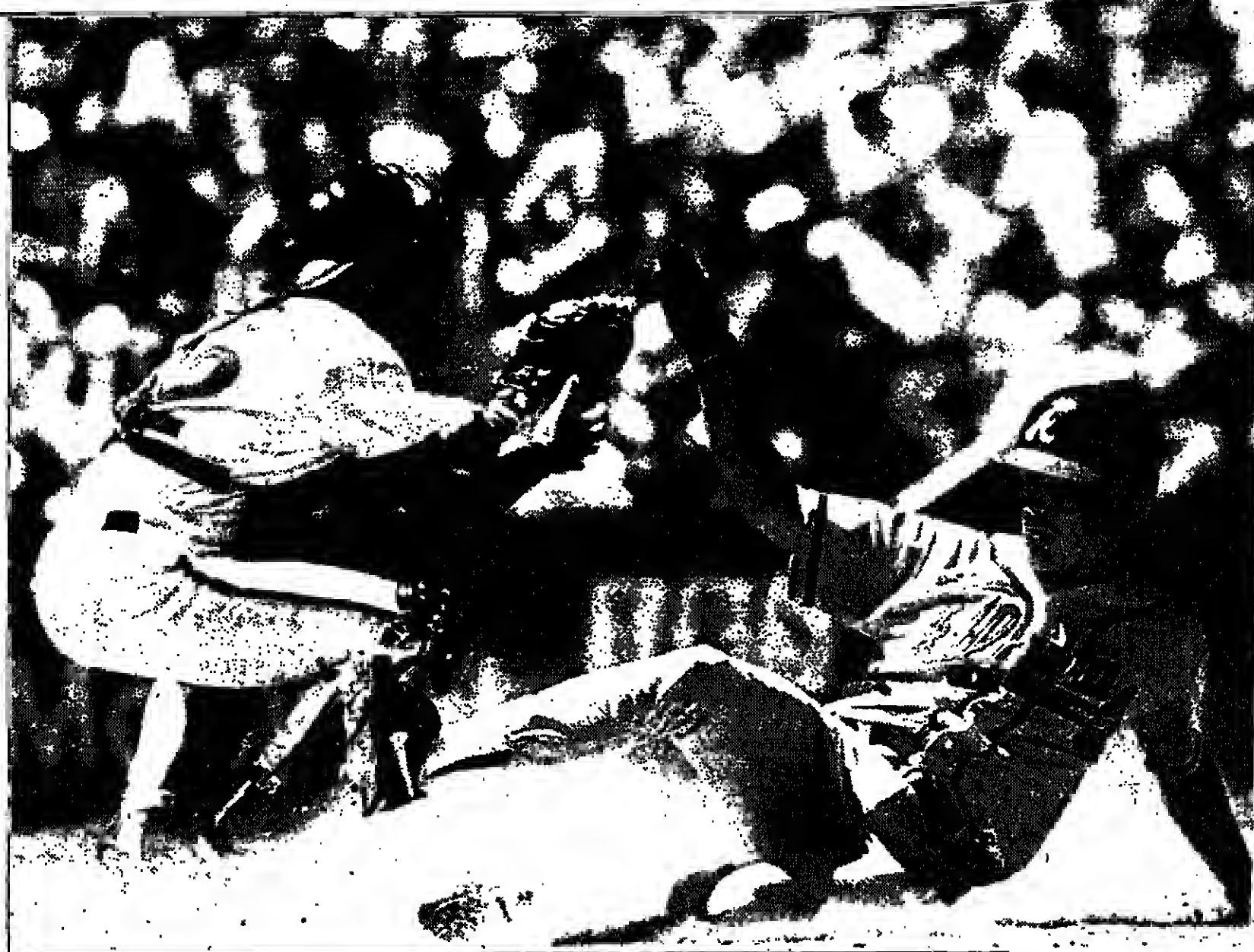
the edge of the box, Rod Wallace nodded back and Yeboah unleashed a thundering strike which flew past David James and in off the bar.

Yeboah's moment of magic lifted the whole tempo of the match as Liverpool responded by picking up their game.

Midway through the half, Mark Wright nodded forward and Rush stretched out a foot to send the ball trickling inches outside the goal, although good work by Wallace then provided an opening for McAllister, the precision of whose side footer was matched by the athleticism of James.

In the 72nd minute, England full-back Rob Jones, still awaiting his first Liverpool goal, took a McManaman pass to let fly from distance, his shot deflecting off John Barnes and crashing against the upright with Lukic a spectator.

James then kept his side in the contest when he somehow parried a point-blank header from Brian Deane but there was to be no rescue act for the Reds.



Giant catcher Jeff Reed waits for the ball while Greg Maddux of the Braves slides safely home as he scores when Giants left fielder Barry Bonds dropped a fly-ball by Braves Jose Oliva

McEnroe: Only Sampras can beat Agassi

MAHWAH, N.J. (AP) — Andre Agassi isn't the only one confident about his chances of repeating in the upcoming U.S. Open.

As far as John McEnroe is concerned, there's only one player in the field of 128 who has a chance to beat Agassi in the Open — three time defending Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras.

"Andre obviously has roared back since Wimbledon," McEnroe said Monday night during a press conference before playing in a charity event with Agassi, Brad Gilbert and Sergi Bruguera at the Pathmark Tennis Classic.

"He took a negative and turned it into a positive after losing a match he should have won," McEnroe said, referring to Agassi's semifinals loss to Boris Becker at Wimbledon. "He's roared back and won four straight tournaments. Pete is struggling, but you have to put those two far and away (above the rest). After that, it's a crapshoot."

When pressed, McEnroe said he would be surprised if anyone other than Agassi or Sampras won.

That's really not a bold statement. Agassi has posted a 46-2 record on hardcourt this year and he has not lost on the surface this summer. The world's top-ranked player fought off two second-set, match points to beat Richard Krajicek 3-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-3, on Sunday to win the Volvo International.

"I'm going into the U.S. Open believing I can win it and not anything else," Agassi said. "I'm going there to win whether I'm seeded No. 1, or not seeded at all. The importance hasn't changed."

Agassi downplayed his struggle on Sunday, saying he won despite not playing his best tennis the final two rounds. "If it hadn't gone my way, nothing would have changed other than I would have lost one this summer," the 25-year-old Agassi said. "Quite honestly, my confidence is at a high. Not really because I got through that match, it's just a reflection of where my confidence level is."

Brad Gilbert, Agassi's coach, brushed off McEnroe's prediction made before a sold-out benefit for the Newark-based safe passage foundation started by the late Arthur Ashe.

"There are 126 other guys there so I disagree," Gilbert said. "There are two guys who have obviously stepped forward but that doesn't mean they are going to win. As soon as you start thinking no one else can beat you, that's the quickest way to get out of an event."

Gilbert also said the times changed since McEnroe was No. 1.

"Now there's more chance of guys having a tough time the first week," Gilbert said. "There's more depth in the game now than there ever has been, and upsets are very possible."

Kodak host their 1995 mid-year performance review

August 1995 - Kodak (Near East) Inc. recently held their annual Mid-Year Performance Review at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dubai. This year's event was attended by over 40 representatives from Kodak's Middle East Distributor organisations, including their local distributor in Jordan, Allied Trade and Supplies Company.

"Aimed at providing a forum at which both Kodak and its distributors can re-align and re-consolidate their goals and strategies for the remainder of the business year, our mid-year conference has proven invaluable in ensuring the success of our business in the region. It is an especially important event when one considers the changeability of markets in the Middle East," noted Mr. Andre Nahas, General Manager, Kodak (Near East) Inc. "We have always promoted a close working relationship with our distributors," continued Mr. Heinz Eichmann, assistant general manager. "We are fortunate that our distributors are similarly committed to ensuring the continuity of these conferences through their regular participation."

Kodak's next major distributor conference will be held in January 1996.

Brazil maintain lead in FIFA rankings

ZURICH (R) — World champions Brazil maintained their lead at the top of the latest world rankings issued by FIFA on Tuesday.

Leading rankings (1994 rankings in brackets):

1. Brazil (1)	68.42 pts
2. Norway (8)	59.40
3. Spain (21)	58.36
4. Germany (5)	58.31
5. Argentina (10)	57.86
6. Italy (4)	56.60
7. Denmark (14)	56.35
8. Russia (13)	55.45
9. Portugal (20)	55.38
10. Mexico (15)	54.99
11. Switzerland (7)	54.47
12. Bulgaria (16)	53.83
13. Colombia (17)	53.59
14. Romania (11)	53.33
15. Sweden (3)	52.88
16. Ireland (9)	51.58
17. Netherlands (6)	51.18
18. France (19)	51.16
19. U.S. (23)	49.83
20. Uruguay (37)	49.46
21. Egypt (22)	49.41
22. England (18)	48.63
23. Scotland (32)	48.09
24. Ghana (26)	47.98
25. Tunisia (30)	47.68
26. Zambia (21)	47.61
27. Czech Republic (34)	47.01
28. Poland (29)	46.88
29. Belgium (24)	45.76
30. Greece (28)	45.67

Bollettieri will not coach Becker any more

BRADENTON, Florida (AP) — Boris Becker's coach for the past two years, Nick Bollettieri, has decided to give up the job so he can concentrate on his tennis academy, a spokeswoman said Monday. Bollettieri will remain Becker's tennis advisor, but can no longer commit to the time and travel that coaching the German star demands, spokeswoman Linda Dozoretz said.

Mike Depalmer Jr., who has assisted Bollettieri and worked with Becker in the past year, will continue to help coach Becker.

Becker's Manager, Axel Meyer-Wolden, didn't return a call seeking comment.

Doping expert Donike dies at 61

BONN (R) — Manfred Donike, the internationally renowned doping expert whose evidence led to the banning of world sprint champions Katrin Krabbe and Ben Johnson, died on Monday two days before his 62nd birthday.

A spokeswoman for the IOC-approved German sports high school laboratory in Cologne which Donike ran said he suffered a heart attack during a flight to Johannesburg.

Donike, a former professional cyclist, was a member of the International Olympic Committee's Medical Commission and was to receive the Olympic Order for his work in the fight against drug abuse in sport.

He was best known for the 1991 analysis which established that urine samples submitted by world 100 and 200 metres champion Krabbe and former East German team mates Grit Breuer and Silke Moeller all stemmed from the same person.

The athletes were banned for four years but then acquitted on a technicality.

But in 1992 Krabbe, Breuer and team mate Manuela Derr were found after analysis at Donike's laboratory to have taken the steroid clenbuterol and banned again.

Krabbe is suing for compensation over the ban but recently had a baby and does not plan to return to the track.

But former world 400 metres medalist Breuer and fellow 400 metres runner Derr have dropped their court action and plan to return to competition this season to prepare for

the 1996 Olympics.

Donike carried out the drugs test at the 1988 Seoul Olympics which led to the sensational disqualification and banning of Canada's 100 metres winner Ben Johnson for taking steroids.

His first coup in the fight against drugs abuse came at the 1983 Pan-American Games where he uncovered 19 doping cases.

Donike was instrumental in pushing through more rigorous testing programmes, especially in Germany, and in arguing for spot testing to prevent athletes concealing their drug-taking.

Last year Donike had no qualms about accusing China's swimmers of systematic doping after their team enjoyed a meteoric rise to the sporting heights.

Donike's crusading work also played a part in the introduction of out-of-competition testing for swimmers in China as well as the United States and Russia.

Even weight-lifting, one of the sports most susceptible to and plagued by performance-enhancing drugs, changed its rules following pressure from Donike.

"Manfred Donike sacrificed himself to clean sport," German Sports Federation (DSB) president Manfred Von Richthofen said.

"In difficult times and in the face of critics of dope-testing he never swerved from his line and not least for that reason earned German sport international respect."

Edwards heads anti climax

GATESHEAD, England (AP) — He warned his home town supporters not to expect anything too exciting, and world triple jump champion Jonathan Edwards could well have been talking about Monday's entire Great Britain versus United States athletics challenge, not just his performance.

Edwards only managed one successful jump of 17.49 metres as the British men beat the U.S. 203 points to 182, while the American women evened the annual meeting, winning 210.5 to 156.5.

After the world championships in Göteborg less than two weeks ago and last Wednesday's stellar evening of athletics at the Weltklasse meet in Zurich, Monday's competition between a second-string U.S. team and Britain deprived of at least two of its biggest attractions, was anti-climatic.

Without Olympic and former world 100-metre champion Linford Christie and world 1500 silver and 800 bronze medalist Kelly Holmes, it was up to Edwards to carry the meet in his first appearance at home since his 18.29 standard setting leap in Sweden.

With three fouls and two passes from six jumps, Edwards' supporters at his home



Jearl Miles of the U.S. runs the 4x400 relay (AFP photo)

track, where he leapt a wind assisted 18.03 last month, only saw him complete one jump.

"It wasn't about winning or even jumping a long way — it was about saying thank you to the people of the north-east for supporting me and celebrating my record," said Edwards, the only world champion at the meeting.

"It was the first time I've been able to relax for a while and I really enjoyed it. I'm feeling very tired and it was a great response from the crowd."

The quality event of the evening was the men's 110 hurdles featuring world record holder and former world

champion Colin Jackson who won convincingly in a quick 13.18, from his teammate and world silver medalist Tony Jarrett.

American Tony Dees, the 1992 Olympic silver medalist, fell at the second hurdle. Jackson missed the World Championships through injury, and was happy with his time Monday. He is having an operation to trim his right knee cartilage at the end of the season.

Britain's javelin silver medalist in Göteborg, Steve Backley, won the event with a throw of 83.00, 1.48 clear of second placed Tom Putsks of the U.S.

Californian Danny Harris,

the 1984 Olympic and 1987 world silver medalist, cantered home by 10 yards in the 400 hurdles in 48.70.

It took until the last leg of the evening's penultimate event for the Americans to unveil their only individual medal winner from Göteborg.

Jearl Miles, who won the 400m bronze in Sweden only ran in the 4x400 relay in which she made up 30 yards in the last leg to win the event for the U.S. by 10 yards.

The U.S. had six relay medalists competing, two of whom, Chryste Gaines and Celena Monde-Milner, repeated their win in the 4x100 relay.

Durie fights pain barrier for Rangers

LARNACA (AFP) — Gordon Durie is ready to play through the pain barrier to help Rangers clinch a precious place in the European Champions League here on Wednesday.

The Scottish Champions take a 1-0 lead into Wednesday's European Cup preliminary round, second-leg against Anorthosis Famagusta in Larnaca, Cyprus.

Super sub Durie supplied them with that vital advantage in Glasgow but also collected a foot injury, which has made him doubtful for the return match.

"I haven't been able to kick the ball because of the bruising but I've been in the gym working on my fitness," said Durie.

"It's possible I may have to have an injection to play if the manager needs me and I'd be prepared to do that."

"It is such a big game for everyone at Rangers that you desperately want to be involved."

The 29-year-old striker says his side are fully aware that their big club status is on the line once again tomorrow after twice failing to reach the Champions League.

"If we don't make it then we will have only ourselves to blame I suppose," said the former Tottenham and Chelsea star.

"On paper everyone really expects us to beat them over two games so we must do that on the pitch."

"We all want that place amongst Europe's elite, which would mean so much to us as players and the club as well."

"The preliminary round games had become very tight and, in many ways, you feel that if you get through the pressure would be off slightly."

Durie, whose chances of playing on Wednesday rose with the absence of Danish international and Scottish player of the year Brian Laudrup, is unconcerned about reports that the atmosphere in the Adorphosis ground in Larnaca will be extremely hostile for the visitors.

"We experienced that in Athens last year at this stage and we have a number of international players who have been all over the world and are used to that kind of thing," said Durie.

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European Swimming Championships

Van Almsick heads for gold

VIENNA (Agencies) — Franziska Van Almsick opened her bid for a record seven gold medals by leading the qualifiers for the women's 100 metres freestyle final at the European Swimming Championships on Tuesday.

The 17-year-old German, who won six golds and a silver at the last European championships in Sheffield in 1993, eased to the front on the second length of the 50-metre open-air stadionbad pool and touched first in 56.58 seconds.

Martina Moravcova of Slovakia, silver medalist behind Van Almsick in Sheffield, and Britain's Karen Pickering were second and third in the heat and overall in 56.74 and 56.85 respectively.

Russia's Natalia Mesheryakova, world championship 50 metres freestyle silver medalist, failed to make the eight-strong final. She finished ninth overall in 57.51, 0.34 seconds slower than the eighth qualifier.

Van Almsick, 200 freestyle world champion, is defending titles in the 50, 100 and 200 freestyle and three relays. She is also swimming the 400 freestyle. Van Almsick has a chance of two golds on the opening day of the main swimming programme and she also competes in the 4x200 metres freestyle relay final in which Germany were the fastest qualifiers.

Hungary's Krisztina Egerszegi, who outdid Van Almsick with four individual titles in Sheffield, won her 400 metres individual medley heat in the second-fastest qualifying time of four minutes 44.10 seconds.

Ireland's Michelle Smith claimed the fastest time with a powerful spin in the preceding heat, which she won comprehensively in 4:43.82.

Egerszegi, triple gold medalist at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, is defending only two titles in Vienna.

Apart from the 400 individual medley, she will swim the 200 metres backstroke, in which she won the 1988 Olympic title at the age of 14, but not defend her 100 backstroke and 200

butterfly crowns.

Belgium's Frederic Deburghgraeve upstaged top Hungarians Norbert Rozsa and Karoly Guttler in the men's 100 metres breaststroke heats, establishing himself as fastest qualifier in 1:01.88.

Guttler, who set the current world record in the heats at the 1993 European Championships, won his heat in the second-fastest overall time of 1:02.12.

Rozsa, who won the event at last September's World Championships ahead of Guttler and Deburghgraeve, was second behind the Belgian in the final heat but only fifth equal overall in 1:02.35.

World champion Antti Kasvio of Finland had to settle for second-fastest qualifying time in the men's 200 freestyle heats behind Swedish veteran Anders Holmertz.

Kasvio won the concluding heat in 1:49.87 after Holmertz, European champion in 1987 and silver medalist behind the Finn at the 1994 World Championships, had taken his heat in 1:49.64.

But it was a bad morning for Holmertz's compatriots in the women's 4x200 metres relay heats.

The Swedes, silver medalists behind Germany in Sheffield, touched comfortably first in their heat but were disqualified for a minimally premature final take-over — 0.05 of a second too quick when a margin of 0.03 is permitted.

Meanwhile Vera Il'yina of Russia captured a second gold medal in the 1-metre springboard diving as she rallied with the best dive of the day.

Veteran Edwin Jongejans of the Netherlands won the men's 1-metre springboard competition, gaining back a title he held six years ago.

With Russia's Olga Sedakova winning the solo synchronized swimming, the Russians now had seven golds out of 10 events completed.



Franziska Van Almsick

Franzi deals with money and gold at 17

VIENNA (AP) — Franziska Van Almsick of Germany has learned to cope with superstardom and wealth with an eye on more gold at the Olympics next year.

Van Almsick was a multi-Olympic medalist at 14, a six-time European gold medalist at 15, a world record-holder when 16.

And a multi-millionaire at 17.

With advertising contracts from different companies worth close to \$5 million, Van Almsick is one of the most recognised women in Germany, rivaling Steffi Graf on the marketplace.

She also battles Graf on the sports pages with the two alternating Germany's sports woman of the year award over the past two years.

She acknowledges that things have become different since she won two silvers and two bronze medals at the Olympics in 1992.

"Of course it has changed more and more after Barcelona but now I have become used to it," Van Almsick said.

Before she was just a top-level swimmer. Now she is a superstar.

"There is a difference between the two facets of life," Van Almsick said. "I personally don't see myself as a superstar, I don't like this

label.

"I am a normal person. I just do different things than other people."

She begins her quest for seven gold medals at the European Swimming Championships Tuesday with heats in the 100 freestyle, where she owns the best time of the year at 55.17. She will also anchor the German 800 relay in the evening.

The 100 will be key for her. (see separate story).

"I can use it as a benchmark. I have been working out hard for these championships," Van Almsick said.

"The first race gives you an idea where you stand."

Later she is set to compete in the 50, 200 and 400 freestyles along with two more relays.

"The 400 will probably be hardest race, not only because of my lack of experience on international level but also it will be my fourth race of the week by Thursday," Van Almsick said.

She thinks she can do well, but many others think the 15-year old rising star of Julia Jung who beat Van Almsick at the German nationals this year is a genuine threat to her unique position.

"It is not a question of prestige," Van Almsick said of the 400 metres rivalry. "I think I can still improve."

Still, Van Almsick has made herself an exception, rather than the rule. She contributed 40,000 marks of her earnings to the German Swimming Federation, a gesture that eased the way for her to swim with her sponsor's commercial logo on her cap.

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Comaneci assures family, fans: I'm alive

NORMAN, Oklahoma (AP) — Gymnastics great Nadia Comaneci first heard the rumor when her mother called near tears at 3 a.m. Monday.

Since then, she's reassured callers from around the world: She's alive.

A newspaper in Bucharest, Romania, reported Monday the former Olympic champion had died, quoting an anonymous source in the United States, said Aurelia Nastase, a foreign correspondent in Los Angeles.

"It was weird. ... I wanted to turn on CNN to find out what happened to me," said Comaneci, the Romanian star of the 1976 Olympics who now lives in Oklahoma with fiancé Bart Connor, a 1984 Olympic gold medalist.

Comaneci said her mother learned of the report while vacationing at the Black Sea. Hers was the first in a steady stream of calls from as far away as Hong Kong and Rome.

The report also spawned calls to Norman regional hospital inquiring about Comaneci's health, said hospital spokeswoman Kathy Dunn.

Comaneci said she has no idea what prompted the report, calling it the "biggest rumor I have ever heard." Although her family now knows she is fine, Comaneci remains concerned about Romanian friends and fans who read the story.

Comaneci, 33, fled Romania in 1989 and plans to marry Connor next year. Connor is a former University of Oklahoma standout who won the gold medal on parallel bars at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Comaneci said she has no idea what prompted the report, calling it the "biggest rumor I have ever heard." Although her family now knows she is fine, Comaneci remains concerned about Romanian friends and fans who read the story.

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GOREN BRIDGE

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—East-West vulnerable. South you hold:

♠765 ♠A84 ♣K854 ♦A32

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 NT Pass Pass 2 ♦

2 ♦ Pass Pass 2 ♦

Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—It would be wise to pass, but doubling is a little risky—you know West has a five-card suit. That leaves only a competitive raise to can no trump.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠J872 ♠954 ♣A2 ♦AK106

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

Pass 1 NT Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Since partner's tie-trump overall in the immediate suit is the equivalent of a one-no-trump opening bid, you have enough to invite game. However, you don't have room to check on the possibility of a 4-4 spade fit, so simply raise to two no trumps to show invitational values. (Besides, partner might have doubled holding four good spades.)

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠10873 ♠A10 ♣A782 ♦A8

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass

2 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—You have the values for game, but don't know where to place the contract. Partner's rebid means in this, it could be made on a four-card suit because your response consumed a whole level of bidding. Bid two spades to see what develops.

spades overall have improved your hand dramatically and you should

be thinking in terms of a possible slam. The first step in the investigation is to bring partner into the picture and the way to accomplish that is to cue-bid two spades.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠Q10872 ♠K ♣Q10763 ♦void

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

A.—If you have available a method of showing spades and diamonds with one bid, by all means make it. If not, we suggest you overcall two diamonds. By the time the auction next gets round to you it could be at four hearts and you will then be able to introduce your second suit at the four-level. Overall one spade now and you might have to bid diamonds at the five-level.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠K882 ♠K ♣AK49 ♦void

Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

A.—With a strong hand and a fit, flash the slam signal as soon as you can. The best way to do that is to jump-shifting to three clubs. Don't worry about landing in the wrong suit—you always can correct clubs to spades at the same level.

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* Teachers who have already applied this year do not need to apply again.

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BLACK SHARK: Russian Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev (right) inspects the battle helicopter "Black Shark" during the opening of the Air Fair International Aerocosmic Salon in Zhukovskiy, 40 kilometres from Moscow, on Tuesday. A total of 145 aircraft and helicopters from 23 countries are on show at the exhibition (AFP photo)

France tightens security after blast suspect nabbed

PARIS (Agencies) — France tightened security on Tuesday after suspected Algerian Muslim militant was detained in Stockholm in connection with bloody bomb attacks in Paris.

Customs officers joined police in carrying out spot checks on travellers and luggage in the country's main railway stations. The railway company SNCF banned non-passengers from platforms. Witnesses said high-speed TGV trains were the most carefully checked. France had already imposed draconian security after two guerrilla bombings in the past month killed seven people and wounded more than 100 in the heart of Paris.

The extra security came after French officials said Swedish police detained Abdul Karim Deneche on Monday at the request of visiting French anti-terrorist Magistrate Jean-Francois Ricard for questioning over the bombs.

French police believe Deneche is a leading member of Algeria's violent rebel Armed Islamic Group (GIA). Both bomb attacks, in which similar devices were used, were claimed by a telephone caller claiming to speak for the GIA.

Investigators believe that Algerian extremists were behind the two bombings and last month's killing in a Paris mosque of Algerian Muslim cleric Abdul Baki Sahraoui who had been threatened by the GIA.

The French daily Le Monde said French investiga-

tors had identified Deneche as Abdul Sabour, a man the well-informed Algerian daily La Tribune had accused of being responsible for Sahraoui's killing and planning attacks in France.

It said Deneche's name was on the Stockholm letterbox of Al Anzar, an Islamic newsletter which said last month that Algerian Muslim militants were behind the bombing of an underground commuter train in central Paris last July 25.

Press reports said a gendarme recognised Deneche from a photograph as a man he saw agitatedly getting off the train seconds before the bomb exploded on board, killing seven and wounding 86.

A second bomb wounded 17 people near the Arc de Triomphe last week.

Le Monde said Judge Ricard may issue an international arrest warrant against Deneche after studying the reports of his questioning by Swedish police. It said Deneche's wife was also detained.

Swedish and French officials maintained a news blackout on Deneche. French Justice Minister Jacques Toubon said early disclosure of his arrest may have hampered investigators.

"I am trying to make sure that police and justice services solve the attacks and I am not sure that this will be best done in public. Statements are more help to criminals than to investigators," he told RTL radio.

Deneche denied belonging

to GIA last January in interview with Swedish television in which he also said French authorities knew that they could not stop the group taking power in Algeria.

The claim made in the name of the GIA accused Paris of backing Algeria's military government in its fight against Muslim fundamentalist rebels.

Mr. Toubon said he could not see clearly what the bombers were trying to achieve and France's Algeria policy had not changed.

"Our government's policy remains the same: It wants democracy in Algeria."

He said Deneche's arrest proved that a French police crackdown on suspected Algerian militants had forced them abroad and that police cooperation in Europe was working well.

Sources close to the probe said many news clippings of the evening rush-hour explosion at the Saint Michel station were found at Deneche's home in Sweden.

The Algerian daily Tribune said "Abdul Sabour" the head of all GIA networks in Europe and had units in Belgium, Bosnia, Britain, France — where they were not known to police — and Sweden.

Swedish television, however, reported that Deneche claimed he does not belong to the GIA. Footage from an interview in December, re-broadcast Monday, shows a man, his face shaded out, saying: "I don't have any links with the GIA. I am not a member of the GIA."

Nzo: No nuclear secrets to Iran

PRETORIA (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo on Monday denied South Africa was passing on nuclear secrets to Iran, saying dealings between the two countries fell within the scope of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

At a media briefing here, Mr. Nzo said South Africa, as a signatory to the treaty, "would never at any stage be involved in any activity with any country that is likely to produce a result in which that country produces nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction."

Foreign Affairs Director General Rusty Evans said at the weekend that a visit to Iran by Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Piki Botha in March, during which he held a series of meetings on nuclear cooperation, had sent "alarm bells ringing with the Americans."

The Johannesburg Sunday Times said U.S. fears that South Africa could be passing on nuclear secrets to Iran were behind strenuous efforts to recent weeks by the Americans to persuade South Africa not to develop close ties with the Islamic republic.

South Africa is busy concluding a deal under which some 15 million barrels of crude oil will be stored at Saldanha, on South Africa's west coast.

Peace with Israel is far away — Sharaa

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Peace between Israel and Syria is distant, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said Tuesday during a visit to Stockholm.

"As long as there are settlements on the occupied territories, as long as the Israelis have not thought thoroughly of withdrawal one should expect that tension will remain," Mr. Sharaa said at a news conference.

He would not condemn Monday's bomb attack on a Jerusalem bus that killed five people.

"We condemn first of all armed settlers that occupy others' land," he said. He added he had heard the suicide bomber was a woman and offered understanding for her.

"Perhaps she had lost a few sons or brothers."

At the moment there are no formal talks known between the two countries. Previously both sides held an inconclusive dialogue on an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Mr. Sharaa said next year's elections in Israel and the United States could speed up the peace process if the candidates make peace an issue.

"If the Israelis and the Americans are serious about peace then this should help rather than undermine" the peace process, he said.

Mr. Sharaa repeated Syria's rejection of the key Israeli demand for each country to set up electronic monitoring posts — so-called

ground-based early warning stations — on the other side of the border at the Golan Heights.

"They want to use the ground stations to spy rather than to stop the war," Mr. Sharaa said.

The early warning system and demilitarised zones on both sides of the border would be set up after an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

Syria would prefer satellite and air reconnaissance, Mr. Sharaa said. Israel has rejected that.

Mr. Sharaa arrived in Sweden Tuesday for talks on bilateral issues and the Middle East. On Wednesday he will continue to Denmark and Norway.

Syria and Iran, both branded sponsors of "terrorism" by the United States, meanwhile sought to explain the causes for Monday's deadly bus bombing in Jerusalem.

The Syrian government said the explosion was an inevitable consequence of flaws in Israel's peace accords with Jordan and the Palestinians.

A state-run newspaper said the apparent suicide attack proves Israel cannot expect full security from "partial deals."

"The explosion has drawn a very clear picture about the negative and destructive repercussions of the partial deals, the promoters of which have tried to impose with all means of power, pressure and blackmail," said Al

Thawra, a government mouthpiece.

Iran's state-controlled radio criticised the tactic used in the bombing, but claimed Palestinians had no choice but to resort to such methods.

"There is no doubt the planting of bombs is unprincipled and abhorrent," the radio said in a commentary. "But," it added, "this is the course the Palestinians have apparently been forced to choose in light of the daily mounting violence and suppression in occupied Jerusalem."

In a previous broadcast, the radio suggested it was too early to place the blame on Hamas.

It quoted "informed political observers... not ruling out the probability of involvement of rival and extremist Zionist groups in such explosions."

"The blast demonstrates that such partial agreements should still be rejected and are unacceptable because they are prejudicial to the Palestine people's rights and aspirations," it added.

"Did these partial agreements guarantee Israel's security?" the paper asked. "Did they set the Israelis at ease and make them practice their daily life away from the feelings of fear and worry?"

Al Thawra said only a "just and comprehensive" peace would "eradicate all elements of tension and explosion and could end all kinds of injustice, occupation and hegemony."

Iran bank official sentenced to death for multi-million fraud

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A senior Iranian banker was sentenced to death Tuesday and two accomplices were handed down life sentences in the biggest embezzlement scandal to go to trial in Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The state-run Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the trio were among five defendants convicted of misappropriating up to \$235 million from the state-run Bank Saderat, a case that had spotlighted rampant official corruption slowing down government efforts to resuscitate the economy.

In addition to the five, two men were ordered to pay fines for minor involvement in the case and a third defendant was acquitted of all charges, said IRNA, monitored in Cyprus.

The trial had taken political dimensions because one of the defendants, Morteza Rafiqdoust, is the brother of a senior Iranian official who is related by marriage to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani. He was one of the two sentenced to life in jail.

Mohsen Rafiqdoust, the convict's brother and brother-in-law of the Iranian president, is former Revolutionary Guards Corps minister. He now heads the multibillion-dollar Foundation for the Oppressed and Disabled, one of several "bonyads," or state con-

glomerates, which are supposed to help Iran's poor, who make up most of the country's 60 million population.

Mohsen Rafiqdoust was dismissed from the cabinet following a no-confidence vote by parliament in 1988 after he was linked to major corruption scandals.

In addition to the embezzlement charge, Fazel Khodadad, the key defendant in the Bank Saderat scandal, was convicted of "sabotaging the country's economic system" for which he was condemned to death.

IRNA said Abtaleb Ibrahim, like Mr. Rafiqdoust, was sentenced to life for misappropriating public funds.

One defendant, Khosrow Vaseghi, was acquitted, said IRNA. Two others, Ebrahim Arya and Jamshid Argand, were sentenced to 15 years in prison each and ordered to pay fines.

The verdicts and sentences were handed down by the no-jury, single-judge Tehran public court, which rules by Islamic law.

It was not immediately known whether the convicts have the right to appeal to a higher court.

The Bank Saderat case had increased public pressure on the government to take action to stamp out official graft at a time when the economy is deteriorating.

A senior Iranian cleric last

month criticised the judicial system for dealing harshly with ordinary citizens while allowing "big shots" to go unpunished.

In referring to the embezzlement case, Ayatollah Ali Akbar Meshkini had said that if the defendants were found guilty, the authorities should "sack out the money from their filthy guts, firmly and decisively and give them what they deserve."

Mr. Meshkini heads the 83-member Assembly of Experts, which chooses Iran's supreme leader.

After five years in power, Mr. Rafsanjani remains onable to steer the economy out of the doldrums.

More than half of Iran's population is below 16 years of age, which makes the task of expanding the economy and creating new jobs even more urgent.

Oil revenues, Iran's economic lifeline, have plummeted following a price slump on the international market. The government is desperately trying to boost non-oil exports, which traditionally have been limited to carpets, caviar, dried fruits and handicrafts.

Economic pressures heighten the possibility of social upheaval, which Mr. Rafsanjani is trying to avert. Riots already have erupted in many Iranian cities in recent years as the economy has deteriorated.

Bedouins recall Israeli massacres of prisoners

CAIRO (AP) — The bedouins remember the massacres, how Israeli troops killed dozens of Egyptian prisoners of war (POWs) and threw their bodies into wells or left them in the desert, and how the bedouins would gather the bodies and bury them.

Decades after the 1948, 1956 and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars in which thousands perished. The disclosures are building on already fierce resentment of Israel inside Egypt, despite the Egyptian government's low-key reaction.

Egyptian human rights groups and journalists have called for those responsible to be charged with war crimes and put on trial and have demanded compensation for families of the victims.

Egyptian newspapers on Tuesday quoted bedouins in the Sinai Peninsula, the scene of the fiercest Arab-Israeli combat, who recalled the massacres and the burying of bodies in 1967.

"A helicopter flew low and with a microphone, they called on members of the Egypt-

ian army to gather in one place to give them water and food," Muslim Al Hous told the state-owned Al Ahrar newspaper, which tracked him down in the coastal town of Al Arish.

"Two Israeli soldiers got out of the helicopter, gathered the weapons of the Egyptian soldiers, stood them in line and shot them all dead," he said.

The massacre occurred in an area called Al Mosama near Al Arish. Mr. Hous was among civilians rounded up by Israeli forces, but later released.

Ibrahim Al Alakmy, another bedouin in Al Arish, recalled an incident in which Israeli troops forced Egyptian soldiers and civilians to stand in line at Al Arish airport.

"Each time they would take a group, walk them away from the lines and shoot them," Mr. Alakmy said.

Neither Mr. Hous nor Mr. Alakmy said how many prisoners were killed in the incidents they witnessed. Mr. Alakmy said he was among those standing in line, but

was released.

Another opposition newspaper, Al Ahrar, did not quote its witnesses by name, but by its count, at least 2,770 Egyptian POWs were massacred in the 1967 war. Former Israeli officers and military historians put the figure at more than 1,000 POWs killed during the 1948, 1956 and 1967 wars.

Egypt lost 11,500 soldiers killed in the 1967 war and had 10,000 taken prisoner. Israel had 777 of its troops killed and 17 captured.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has rejected calls to investigate the massacres, saying both sides were guilty of transgressions and that Arab forces also committed war crimes.

On Monday, the Egyptian organisation for human rights urged international human rights groups to pressure Israel to investigate the killings. The Egyptian Journalists' Union called for the Israeli soldiers to be put on trial before an international court and for Israel to provide compensation for victims' families.

COLUMN

Kiss earns German woman \$600 fine

BONN (AFP) — A German woman who kissed her boyfriend while he was driving was fined 827.50 marks (\$600) Tuesday for causing a traffic accident as a result. A judge in the western town of Ibbenbueren ruled that the star-crossed Romeo lost control of his car as a result of the smooch and collided with another vehicle. According to investigators, the culprit was snuggled up against her companion and decided to give him a kiss as he was pulling up to an intersection. But she picked the wrong moment as the light was turning red.

British television violence on decline

LONDON (R) — The amount of violence shown on British television has almost halved in the past 10 years, an independent study showed.

Research set up in the wake of the vicious 1993 murder by two 11-year-old boys of Liverpool toddler James Bulger showed that violence accounted for just 0.61 per cent of the output of Britain's four terrestrial television stations. The figure for 1986 was 1.1 per cent, researchers at Sheffield University said. State-owned BBC and Britain's independent television companies have tried to reduce the violent content of their programmes because of concern over the effects on children. The murder of two-year-old bulger, lured away from his mother in a shopping centre and battered to death with bricks and stones, horrified Britons and made headlines around the world. Evidence at the trial suggested the schoolboy killers may have been influenced by horror videos.

World Malay language congress opens

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Delegates from 25 countries Monday opened a five-day conference to discuss how to make Malay, the national tongue of Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Brunei, an international language. Backed by Indonesia's huge population of 194 million, Malay is spoken by an estimated 250 million people worldwide. But the language does not have its own script. It is instead written in the Roman script. The conference, "Malay language as an international language: vision and confidence," has been organised by the government-run Language and Literary Agency. More than 130 papers are to be discussed by delegates who include representatives from France, China, Russia, the United States, South Africa and the Netherlands.

Crowd watches as woman jumps to death in river to escape attacker

DETROIT (AP) — About 40 onlookers cheered as a woman with a crowbar forced a man to strip to her underwear and then chased her until she jumped to her death from a bridge, police said. No one tried to stop the attack early Saturday at the Belle Isle Bridge, which occurred after the man and woman were involved in a traffic accident, authorities said. The body of 33-year-old Deletha Word was found several hours later in the Detroit River, miles downstream from the bridge that links Detroit to an island park. "They don't have any heart," said Ms. Word's mother, Dortha Word. "They don't have any conscience. They are just as much at fault as the man who made her jump." One man was taken into custody Sunday but no charges had been filed as of Monday, police said. A second man was being sought.

Settler remanded over killing

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Jewish settler suspected of shooting dead a Palestinian was remanded in custody for a further 10 days by a Jerusalem court on Tuesday. Zeev Liebskind, 40, was arrested after newspapers published photographs of him firing his M16 assault rifle in the direction of Palestinians during a protest over land rights. Israelis from the West Bank settlement of Beit El opened fire on Aug. 13 after Palestinians demolished a building under construction and set fire to flags and religious books on a disputed hill-top. Police say the bullet extracted from Liebskind's rifle killed 23-year-old from the neighbouring village of Dura Al Qar. Mr. Liebskind's lawyer Yair Golan said his client fired in the air and did not aim at anyone will therefore plead not guilty. He has also accused the Palestinians of carrying and a "pogrom," although not a single Israeli was hurt.

Yemen cracks down on illegal workers

ADEN (R) — Police in Yemen are cracking down on foreigners working illegally in the country, which suffers from high unemployment. Officials and residents said on Tuesday. Interior Minister Hussein Mohammad Arab was quoted by the government newspaper October 14 on Tuesday as saying the campaign was launched because of an increase in the number of foreigners staying illegally in Yemen. He gave no figures. "Those who prove to be staying or working illegally will be deported," he added. Presidents in Aden said police were picking up foreigners, mainly Somalis, from the streets. Similar measures were being taken in other parts of the country. Several thousand Somalis fled to Yemen in the early 1990s to escape war in their own country.

Germany to maintain aid to Palestinians

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Germany's Development Minister Carl Dieter Spranger renewed Bonn's commitment in aid to the Palestinians on Tuesday after meeting Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. "We intend to continue to help and support the Palestinian people," said Mr. Spranger, who saw Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Tuesday. Mr. Spranger was in travel on to Jordan and then in Syria.

Bomb alert in Hamburg station

HAMBURG (AP) — A major bomb alert was sparked at the main Hamburg railway station Tuesday by a suspect device in a briefcase which turned out to be a small camera accompanied by laboratory material, police said. Police earlier said they had defused the device in the briefcase, which was left at a newspaper kiosk in an entrance to the main station hall. The station was partly evacuated and sealed off after a person noticed a wire trailing out of the case, and police said they had defused the supposed bomb with the help of a high-pressure water jet. Police at the same tackled other suspicious objects in the station, but these also turned out to be harmless.

Egypt to open bird study centre

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt will open a centre for the study of Mediterranean migratory birds this autumn in the north Sinai desert, the director of the Al-Zaranik nature reserve told AFP on Tuesday. "The centre is of prime importance for studying the migration of birds passing over Egypt from Europe to return in Africa," Wahid Salameh said. Salameh said the Al Zaranik reserve, near the coastal town of Al Arish, plays host to "91 of the 167 types of birds which exist in the Mediterranean, especially cormorants, pelicans, herons, plovers, terns, egrets and warblers." The centre, which has been planned since 1985, will gather Egyptian experts on observing and classifying bird species as well as birdlovers from Egypt and abroad.

Detainees killed in Turkey — group

ANKARA (AFP) — Fourteen people were killed in Turkey while in detention or under mysterious circumstances in July, and another 23 were tortured by police, a human rights organisation said Tuesday. Akin Birdal, head of the Turkish Human Rights Association, told a news conference that 1,572 people were arrested in July, 117 of whom were charged. He accused the Turkish security forces of excessive and "arbitrary" detentions. Mr. Birdal did not elaborate on who may have killed those who died outside prison, but said it was the work of "unknown perpetrators," a term generally reserved for police killings.